United Nations E/2013/61

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 May 2013

Original: English

Substantive session of 2013
Geneva, 1-26 July 2013
Item 7 (g) of the provisional agenda*
Coordination, programme and other questions: tobacco or health

Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/4. It contains a summary of the 10th meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force and the specific actions taken by its members to promote effective tobacco policies and assistance mechanisms at the national level, including multisectoral engagement in the implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and progress to further integrate the aims of the Convention within the context of the implementation of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex).

The 10th meeting of the Task Force took place in Geneva on 13 and 14 March 2013. It was chaired by WHO and hosted by the International Telecommunication Union at its headquarters. Ten Task Force member entities participated in the meeting (see annex II). The meeting was followed, on 15 March, by the 5th meeting of United Nations funds, programmes and agencies on inter-agency collaboration for preparations on implementation of relevant activities of the Political Declaration. The United Nations inter-agency collaboration group on non-communicable diseases had been informally put in place in 2011 to facilitate inter-agency work on the implementation of the Declaration.

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Also at the 10th meeting, an overview was given of the achievements of the members of the Task Force to date, including updates on recent developments with regard to the Framework Convention at the political, technical and operational levels. Members of the Task Force provided information on their ongoing and future contributions to tobacco control activities. The need for a coordination and monitoring mechanism was discussed, and a matrix was drawn up to list concrete actions of the different agencies with regard to tobacco control work and Framework Convention implementation (see annex I). The importance of country-level work was emphasized and mechanisms to engage in an inclusive way were explored. In that context, opportunities for synergies and linkages between the Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control and the inter-agency collaboration group on non-communicable diseases were also addressed.

I. Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Council has been engaged in the area of tobacco control since 1999, focusing on the multisectoral nature and character of tobacco control challenges. Since 2012, it has been looking into the implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In view of the multisectoral implementation needs, especially among the developing countries, the Council has recommended a United Nations system-wide response, through the contribution of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control. The Secretary-General, in his reports to the Council at its substantive sessions of 2010 (E/2010/55) and 2012 (E/2012/70) in particular, recommended the integration of implementation efforts within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, where appropriate.

2. The Framework Convention is an evidence-based treaty, the first of its kind negotiated under the auspices of WHO. To date there are 176 parties to the Convention, making it one of the most rapidly embraced treaties in the history of the United Nations. The Convention is a multilateral instrument that provides a comprehensive legal framework to combat the global tobacco epidemic. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which is the central body that establishes the policy and programme of the Convention, meets regularly every two years. The fifth session of the Conference was held in Seoul in November 2012.

3. The 9th special meeting of the Task Force, held in 2012, looked at its members' contributions to support countries in the implementation of the Framework Convention, in particular in the light of multisectoral and integrated needs under different provisions of the Convention. The results of the meeting are contained in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the Task Force (E/2012/70). Following the consideration of that report, the Economic and Social Council adopted its resolution 2012/4, entitled "United Nations system-wide coherence on tobacco control", in which it, inter alia, calls for:

- Effective tobacco control policies with a view to full implementation of the Convention and assistance mechanism at the national level
- Task Force members to contribute to the goals of the Convention, including through multisectoral assistance mechanisms, in particular in the context of the challenges related to non-communicable diseases
- Options to effectively monitor the work of the Task Force and the integration of implementation efforts in respect of the Convention within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

4. Resolution 2012/4 also recognizes the crucial importance of full and comprehensive implementation of the Convention as an effective preventive tool in the context of the global epidemic of non-communicable diseases. The call for full implementation is also reflected in the outcome documents of global health and development meetings, such as the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-Communicable Disease Control, held in Moscow, the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Such calls for full implementation were fully echoed by the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework

Convention, in 2010 and 2012, respectively. Furthermore, there is a visible synergy in the decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Conference of the Parties, which has made it possible to provide unambiguous guidance to the members of the Task Force, WHO and the Convention secretariat.

5. As a major development that occurred after the last meeting of the Task Force, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. This is the first protocol to the Framework Convention and a new international treaty. Once it comes into force (after the fortieth ratification, as required), the Protocol would provide additional scope for inter-agency collaboration, in line with the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, the governing body of the Protocol.

II. Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force and its achievements: synopsis of progress on contributions with regard to the implementation of the Convention

6. The 10th meeting of the Task Force was attended by representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank and the Convention secretariat (see annex II). During the meeting, the agencies provided updates on their work in support of the implementation of the Convention and shared details of planned activities in 2013 and beyond in line with the areas of collaboration as outlined in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the Task Force. The individual actions taken by each agency are also set forth in annex I to the present report.

A. World Health Organization

7. Pursuant to the thrust of the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70) and the mandate contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/4, WHO continues to coordinate and participate actively in the multisectoral response and assistance received from the members of the Task Force on Tobacco Control. It is doing this through the work of the Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases department (which covers tobacco control), other relevant WHO entities, as well as the Convention secretariat (which operationalizes the work of the Convention in implementation activities, as mandated by the Conference of the Parties, in the spirit of a whole-of-WHO working approach.

Work implemented by the Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases department and other relevant WHO entities

8. The demand-side measures taken are as follows:

Capacity-building

- Working closely with the Ministries of Finance of countries to review their excise tax systems and improve their effectiveness and that of their training officials so as to increase their capacity in analysing their tax systems and improve them
- Developing training and training-of-trainers materials as well as providing training and direct technical cooperation in countries for: the implementation of smoke-free policies; bans on tobacco advertising; promotion and sponsorship; packaging and labelling, including plain packaging; tobacco dependence management; and product regulation
- Providing support to countries in the drafting of comprehensive laws on different aspects of tobacco control

Monitoring

- Providing support to countries in designing and undertaking surveys
- Closely monitoring the implementation of tobacco control measures globally and over time
- Monitoring adult and youth tobacco use
- Monitoring of tobacco outcomes (mortality estimates)

Media and campaigns

- Working with event-hosting countries and local organizing committees to successfully declare smoke-free such mega-events as the Winter Olympics and the World Cup competition
- Conceptualizing and undertaking the yearly World No Tobacco Day campaign used by countries' ministries of health and other partners (adjusted to their own needs)

9. The supply-side measures taken are as follows.

- Carrying out research on the level and types of illicit trade in tobacco products globally
- Providing expert input to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Working Group on articles 17 and 18

10. The following cross-cutting issues were addressed.

- Improving evidence on the link between tobacco and development
- Providing support to countries facing challenges on trade-related international obligations in relation to the implementation of some tobacco control measures
- Monitoring tobacco industry interference and assisting countries in developing action plans to counter the industry

Work implemented by the Convention secretariat, as mandated by the Conference of the Parties

11. The Conference of the Parties meets on a biennial basis to review the progress achieved regarding the Convention and to take decisions in order to promote its effective implementation. So far it has met five times. The Conference of the Parties has put in place the following multisectoral mechanisms of assistance, through which implementation assistance is channelled covering all provisions of the Convention as well as the cross-cutting issues mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70).

- Joint needs assessments
- Intercountry workshops on implementation of the Convention
- Assistance to parties on needs identified
- Database on available resources
- Promotion of the transfer of expertise and technology
- Provision of assistance in relation to the reporting obligation under the Convention
- Integration of implementation of the Convention into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
- Promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation for treaty implementation

12. The reports of the Secretary-General to the substantive sessions of 2010 and 2012 of the Economic and Social Council were reviewed by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth and fifth sessions. Decisions were taken by the Conference to mandate the Convention secretariat to promote these mechanisms of assistance where contributions by the members of the Task Force are recognized as "resources" and multisectoral assistance mechanisms in themselves. Detailed reports on implementation assistance provided in line with the foregoing mechanisms were submitted by the Convention secretariat to the Conference of the Parties, including to its most recent session. The various inputs of the members of the Task Force are contributing to implementation in areas that were highlighted as a challenge in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70), in which he examined the demand and supply side and other measures under the Convention, including the cross-cutting issues of trade and investment.

13. Details of activities undertaken by the members of the Task Force pursuant to resolution 2012/4 are described in the sections below, including a snapshot of activities to be undertaken until its next meeting, in 2014.

B. United Nations Development Programme

14. UNDP, as the convener and coordinator of the United Nations system at the country level, has a unique role in the context of assisting countries to meet their general obligations under article 5 of the Convention. This role is outlined in the report of the Secretary-General. Taking into account the requirements under article 5

of the Convention, UNDP has contributed to the implementation of the Convention in the following areas:

- Participation in the joint needs assessment on the implementation of the Convention, with a view to facilitating the integration of Convention implementation under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and in the national development and health plans/policies/ programmes at the country level
- Participation in the intercountry workshops on implementation of the Convention, with a view to raising the awareness of countries about the mechanisms of assistance available to them, upon request, in meeting their obligations under article 5 of the Convention
- Preparation of a joint UNDP-Framework Convention discussion paper on the Framework Convention and development agenda
- Participation in the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in particular, to raise awareness about UNDP and its possible contribution to assist countries in meeting their treaty obligations
- Development of a framework of cooperation with the Convention secretariat through a jointly signed statement of intent, for joint planning and programming of activities under article 5 of the Convention

15. Based on the understanding of the workplan of the Conference of the Parties, UNDP envisages the following activities in 2013 and until the next meeting of the Task Force in 2014:

- Follow up on the status of the integration of Convention implementation under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in particular, in countries where there is express commitment to do so based on reports of the joint needs assessment missions. In 2013, 24 per cent of a sample of 90 available United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks reference tobacco
- Raise awareness and promote the listing of Convention implementation under United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and as an international obligation and an important component of the action taken against non-communicable diseases in the annex to the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
- Include making a reference to the listing of the treaty in the annex to the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in the joint follow-up letter of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Director-General of WHO to UNDP and WHO country offices on the work in non-communicable diseases
- Publish another discussion paper jointly with the Convention secretariat on a technical guidance tool to implement article 5.2 (a) of the Convention relating to national coordinating mechanisms. Provide support for other technical papers, such as regional studies that are specific to the UNDP mandate
- Provide support for a Convention-centric advocacy tool in the context of the post-2015 development and health agenda to highlight the Convention as the prevention tool in the context of the fight against the epidemic of non-communicable diseases. This advocacy tool could focus on "healthy life

expectancy under universal health coverage" as part of the whole-of-United Nations approach

C. World Bank

16. The World Bank continues to provide support for tobacco control activities in line with its mandate, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General in a comprehensive manner. The Bank works with all interested partners on tobacco control measures, including with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States of America, the Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases department of WHO and the Convention secretariat, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, local and international civil society groups, and academia. It supports comprehensive measures for tobacco control, with a particular focus on issues that are directly and indirectly linked to tobacco prices and taxes, as well as the impact of tobacco use on poverty.

17. Since the 9th meeting of the Task Force, in February 2012, the following contributions have been made:

- Participated in joint needs assessment missions and provided follow-up support to countries such as Kyrgyzstan, Colombia and Senegal. Its commitment to provide support to other countries where the needs assessment has taken place remains and support will be provided, upon request
- Co-sponsored a WHO-Pan American Health Organization seminar on tobacco taxes and illicit trade, held in Panama City
- Placed a greater focus, policy-wise, within the Bank, on poverty and tobacco use
- Provided technical assistance to the Government of Kyrgyzstan to include actions on tobacco control and tax increases in the health programme, and provided technical assistance to Senegal and the Gambia on tobacco tax reform. This reform has been approved and is currently being implemented
- Coordinated and co-financed with WHO and civil society, a study on tobacco taxes covering the Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. This work is ongoing
- In coordination with WHO, civil society and academia, provided very intense technical assistance to the Government of the Philippines to draft and support the adoption of the sin-tax law, which includes a substantial increase in tobacco taxes. The law has been approved by the Parliament and the World Bank is currently supporting the Government's implementation and monitoring efforts
- Requested and received World Bank resources to work on poverty and tobacco control issues in Central and East Asia
- Organized a subregional workshop on tobacco taxation in the Balkans, with a special focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Another workshop was organized in Moscow in cooperation with the Government of the Russian Federation and WHO
- As an observer, provided comments regarding the drafting of the guidelines in article 6 of the Convention

- Participated in the Africa intercountry workshop on implementation of the Convention and in the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties
- In Coordination with WHO, technical assistance on tobacco taxation is being provided to the Philippines and Bangladesh

18. In 2013 and until the next meeting of the Task Force, the World Bank will do the following:

- Continue to provide support to and participate in the intercountry workshops on implementation of the Convention in order to raise awareness of countries about assistance available through the World Bank system
- Continue to participate and/or provide support to the joint needs assessment missions and follow-up on implementation assistance, and provide such assistance in the area of article 6, on price and tax measures, upon request
- Actively engage Bangladesh and India on tobacco control dialogue and co-organize a regional meeting on tobacco taxes in India, in September 2013
- Continue to provide support for policy dialogue on tobacco in the Russian Federation and Central Asia
- Publish one or two technical papers on tobacco taxation and poverty and tobacco
- Continue to coordinate tobacco control work with WHO and other partners at the country and global levels
- Provide support to the Government of the Philippines in its implementation and monitoring of the tobacco tax reform
- Continue policy engagement in Colombia, following the needs assessment undertaken in 2012
- Respond to demands for technical assistance on tobacco prices and taxes, as needed

D. International Labour Organization

19. ILO continued to support the treaty work through:

- Participation in the meeting of the Working Group of the Conference of the Parties on articles 17 and 18, regarding sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing
- Participation in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session

20. In particular, it was highlighted that in the context of the enforcement of smoke-free policies under article 8 of the Convention, on protection from exposure to tobacco smoke, such enforcement could be achieved, where appropriate, under the "decent work" country programmes. It was suggested that the flagship "decent work" programme could be seen as a tool within the country settings to promote smoke-free policies in the workplace. In addition, implementation of the ILO SOLVE programme could supplement the efforts of Governments in promoting smoke-free workplaces. ILO would make efforts to stimulate implementation of the programme in select countries and would update the Task Force at its next meeting.

21. ILO would also continue to provide support for treaty work in areas relating to articles 17 and 18, and through its involvement in the work of the Working Group of the Conference of the Parties as well as its participation in other relevant treaty work.

E. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

22. UNCTAD had been a member of the Task Force since its inception and was its first convener before the convening functions shifted to WHO. It provided the following update on its contributions to implementation of the Convention:

- UNCTAD established an informal internal working group on tobacco control issues and development covering areas of trade, investment, intellectual property and commodities
- UNCTAD contributed to the information base of the Convention in trade- and investment-related aspects of implementation through the meeting organized by the Convention secretariat for health and trade representatives of the parties and by providing technical support to developing countries
- The organization participated in the intercountry workshop in Africa on implementation of the Convention to highlight potential support and assistance by UNCTAD to countries in areas such as value chain analysis of the tobacco crop and promotion of sustainable alternatives under article 17 of the Convention, provision of information and technical support on bilateral investment agreements and technical assistance, and capacity-building on intellectual property rights and patent and copyright issues (e.g. provisions concerning Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)) that are relevant to the implementation of the Convention

23. For 2013, UNCTAD envisages:

- Publication of three technical papers covering a global value chain analysis of the tobacco crop, the relationship between international investment agreements and tobacco control policies, and issues of copyrights and patents pertaining to packaging and labelling under article 11 of the Convention
- Participation in intercountry workshops on implementation of the Convention to raise awareness about available mechanisms of assistance to countries and about joint needs assessment missions, where relevant
- The opening of its regional capacity-building trai ing workshops on international investment agreements to Convention focal points with a view to training-the-trainers and the provision of data on trade and trade barriers for the information platform. The provision of data depends on the availability of information and will be coordinated with WTO

F. World Trade Organization

24. WTO, within the scope of its mandate, continued to follow the work on the implementation of the Convention. It participated in the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties. The Convention secretariat, as part of the WHO delegation, also participated as an observer in various WTO bodies, in particular the

Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. It made statements in the March 2013 meetings of these two WTO bodies under the relevant agenda items.

25. Since the last meeting of the Task Force, WTO, together with WHO and WIPO, published a trilateral study on public health, trade and intellectual property, entitled "Promoting access to medical technologies and innovation: intersections between public health, intellectual property and trade".

26. Under the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, WTO has been asked to continue to share information on the interface between trade and tobacco issues, as appropriate, including in the context of WHO-organized technical assistance events.

G. World Intellectual Property Organization

27. WIPO was part of the first-ever joint study referred to in paragraph 25 above.

28. While not formally a part of the United Nations Development Group as are other member agencies of the Task Force, it reports that, upon request, it remained open to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to the States members of WIPO in the areas under its mandate.

III. Cross-cutting and other emerging issues

A. Synergizing the work of the United Nations Ad Hoc Inter-agency Task Force on Tobacco Control and the United Nations inter-agency collaboration group on non-communicable diseases

29. Following the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex), and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/4 and bearing in mind the natural relationship between non-communicable diseases and tobacco control, both the Task Force and the United Nations collaboration group on non-communicable diseases could be linked and transformed into a single United Nations inter-agency task force on non-communicable diseases, whereby the tobacco control section would have prominence, given that the Convention creates legal obligations for its parties.

30. Participants at the 10th meeting of the Task Force were unanimous in their opinion that it was beyond doubt that there were synergies to be tapped from the work of the Task Force, including the implementation of the Convention, on the one hand, and the work of the inter-agency collaboration group on the other. Both were mutually supportive and inclusive in terms of operational and technical issues as well as in terms of policy interventions. Given the potential of the Convention as the internationally agreed and legally binding preventive tool in the context of global health, support for its implementation was considered crucial in addressing future needs in the area of non-communicable diseases in general. This could continue to be supported by:

- Continuing to contribute to the implementation of the Convention in areas indicated above and gradually expanding the activities, depending on the availability of resources
- Mobilizing resourcing to provide for multisectoral assistance and joint programming at the country level
- Creating an effective follow-up mechanism within Task Force members' own settings to assist countries in coordination with WHO and the Convention secretariat
- Further promoting and refining United Nations system-wide coherence on tobacco control by following mandate areas and programming activities accordingly
- Following the matrix of potential contributions, as identified in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70), and maintaining it as an annex to the present and future reports of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council

31. The natural evolution of the Task Force into a wider non-communicable disease agenda was therefore to be seen as a logical step for integrating the work on the prevention of non-communicable disease and on tobacco control. A special subgroup within the suggested non-communicable disease inter-agency task force would be dealing with Convention and tobacco control activities, to continue the important work on tobacco issues. The suggested inter-agency task force would have the mandate and the ability to provide support to countries and mobilize resources for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

B. National coordination mechanisms

32. One of the major challenges that were highlighted by the Task Force members was that there was an insufficient level of awareness in the United Nations country teams about inter-agency efforts towards tobacco control measures, including about the requirements for implementation of the Convention under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. Moreover, it was also highlighted that in many cases there was little traction for stand-alone national coordination mechanisms under article 5.2 (a) of the Convention, as such mechanisms existed for non-communicable diseases and were supposed to be subsumed under the broader non-communicable disease context. The possible way forward was to follow the following approach:

- Where non-communicable disease coordination mechanisms existed, it should be ascertained that the mechanisms should cover the relevant issues of tobacco under article 5.2 (a) of the Convention
- In the event that there was no non-communicable disease national coordination mechanism, the treaty should be used as a "resource" and legal obligation to strengthen Convention implementation as well as the response to non-communicable diseases
- Treaty implementation should be listed as part of a country's international obligations; such an effort would go a long way towards raising the awareness of United Nations country teams about integration of Convention

implementation under United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and the formulation of programmatic activities

C. Tobacco industry and its interference in the work of the United Nations system

33. In paragraph 38 of its Political Declaration on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, the General Assembly recognized the fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health. Article 5.3 of the Convention strongly advises parties to protect themselves from industry and commercial interferences. Preventing industry interference at the United Nations continues to be of importance for the Task Force. The tobacco industry has a long history of trying to infiltrate and prevent tobacco control work. The Global Compact, a United Nations initiative for voluntary corporate citizenship, has, unfortunately, seen a number of tobacco companies join this initiative and improve their image as socially responsible companies.[1] Vetting, awareness and monitoring should be priorities of the United Nations to ensure the highest standards. Guidelines and policies on the relationship with industry are necessary. IAEA and UNDP developed internal policies to ensure that tobacco-affiliated groups are not considered when setting up agreements with new partners and donors. Their policy decision could be used as a model for other agencies that do not have such clearly defined policies.

D. Surveillance and reporting obligations on the implementation of the Convention under the treaty and its impact on Global Health

34. An update was given on discussions about article 20 of the Frameworks Convention, on research, surveillance and exchange of information, article 21, on reporting and exchange of information, and article 22, on cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields, and provision of related expertise, with specific recommendations and action points. It was agreed that the challenges in those areas would need to be tackled in order to support compliance with the reporting obligations under the Convention as well as to assist parties to collect necessary surveillance data on tobacco use for reporting purposes under the Convention. The following way forward was agreed.

- Agencies such as UNDP and the World Bank, in addition to WHO, would provide support for the collection of data on tobacco use by examining the feasibility of measure DHS and other surveys to monitor living conditions in the developing countries that are supported by them. This would be accomplished in cooperation with WHO country offices without creating additional surveys, as the surveillance questions under the reporting instrument of the Conference of the Parties are already harmonized with, for example, WHO STEPs surveys
- To promote the fulfilment of reporting obligations under the Convention, UNDP, together with the WHO country office, would stimulate the country

[1] For more details on the Global Compact, see E/2008/59.

environment by seeking necessary clarification and providing required assistance to facilitate reporting as part of country international obligations

- Joint action would be taken with parties that have not reported on implementation so far as well as those parties that have not submitted regular reports in the second stage

35. In the context of the upcoming Convention information platform, which seeks to combine in one place the necessary information on the status of implementation of the Convention, the Convention secretariat requested the members of the Task Force to provide information and linkages to the information platform in their respective areas of contribution and mandate. It was agreed that members of the Task Force would provide:

- Appropriate linkages to the Convention information platform on their support activities
- Access to knowledge products that are already available on their websites
- Assistance in the development of indicators and a related data bank
- Information on available or possible assistance to Member States by their becoming part of the Convention database on available resources
- Information on their experience and inputs on proposed, online knowledge hubs for the Convention

E. Options for monitoring

36. The participants also discussed the options for effectively monitoring their activities in contribution to the implementation assistance in line with the requirements of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2012/4. In this regard, it is recommended that the members of the Task Force should continue to be guided by the matrix of potential contributions, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70) and continue to provide information and update one another and the Member States through regular reports submitted to the Council.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

37. **The 10th meeting of the United Nations Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control highlighted progress in a variety of areas in the political, technical and operational contexts, with a special focus on the implementation of obligations under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.**

38. **Members of the Task Force[2] expressed their commitments to continue, within the scope of their mandates, their efforts in the area of tobacco control activities according to their individual expertise and strengths, including by**

[2] It is understood that the role of WTO, in line with the decision taken by the parties to the Convention at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (decision FCTC/COP5(15)), is limited to information-sharing on the interface between international trade policies and tobacco control.

submitting a list of actions and verifiable deliverables for 2013 based on the areas defined and outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70).

39. **Members of the Task Force agreed, within the scope of their mandates, to join forces at various levels towards multisectoral tobacco control measures, inter alia, by integrating agency-specific expertise during joint missions and training programmes at the country level, including insertion of multisectoral actions in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks design.**

40. **The meeting agreed on the complementary value of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control and the informal United Nations inter-agency task force on non-communicable disease. Members of both coordination platforms stressed the need to ensure coherence in the work of inter-agency mechanisms and to avoid duplication. They concurred that both platforms should converge into a single United Nations inter-agency coordination platform for work on non-communicable disease, with a special chapter on tobacco control activities, including the implementation of the Convention. A suggested name for the United Nations inter-agency coordination platform could be "inter-agency task force on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases". The new mechanism would also answer the call made by the General Assembly upon WHO, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, in paragraph 51 of the Political Declaration on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, to work together in a coordinated manner to support national efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts.**

41. **In order to maintain momentum and to accelerate action, it was agreed to hold yearly meetings of the United Nations inter-agency coordination platform on non-communicable disease and to recommend annual reporting to the Economic and Social Council for further orientation and guidance.**

Recommendations

42. **The following recommendations are submitted to the Economic and Social Council:**

(a) **As the implementation of the Political Declaration on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases moves forward, the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control should evolve to include the wider non-communicable disease agenda. A recommended new task force on the prevention and control of non-communicable disease would address all such diseases and include a specific subgroup to focus on tobacco, with the option to create other subgroups, as needed. Therefore, the members of the Task Force would like to submit to the Economic and Social Council the request for linkage of the Task Force with the inter-agency collaboration group on non-communicable diseases by agreeing on expanding the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control to include the broader areas of work on non-communicable diseases (prevention and control), removing the reference to the "ad hoc" nature of the mechanism and recommending amendment of its terms of reference in order to reflect a wider non-communicable disease agenda;**

(b) The Council may wish to amend the agenda item under which the work of the Task Force has been considered until now from "Tobacco or health" to "Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases", in accordance with the foregoing recommendation;

(c) The effective implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control requires strong action at the country level. The most relevant mechanism for country-level support is the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. However, given its limitations, such as the fact that not all agencies, programmes or funds are part of it, other instruments can also be examined. Increased cooperation and communication among agencies, in particular UNDP and WHO, is needed in order to take stock of the opportunities present in countries and to make sure that non-communicable diseases and tobacco control have a prominent place in the development of future United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks;

(d) Together with the work at the country level to integrate Convention implementation into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, inter-agency cooperation and the effective use of existing expertise should remain a priority. The matrix contained in annex I to the present report is a useful tool to monitor agencies' work in this area, promote a United Nations system-wide approach and avoid duplication;

(e) Careful attention needs to be paid to tobacco industry interference. To that end, in line with the principles of article 5.3 of the Convention and its implementing guidelines, the United Nations should adopt guidelines to ensure independence and objectivity in its work.

Annex

Matrix of work of the members of the United Nations Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control for the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
Article 5 (General obligations)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Take into account requirements of article 5 in the UNDP country-level role as convener and coordinator, where appropriate and under its governance programmes	Joint letter from Helen Clark and Margaret Chan to Resident Coordinators and WHO representatives to incorporate non-communicable diseases and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks Baseline assessment of the degree of integration of the Framework Convention into development instruments (co-publication with the Convention secretariat) UNDP engagement in three country needs assessments to further involve Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams in Framework Convention implementation	Follow up communication with United Nations country teams regarding work in non-communicable diseases and the Framework Convention throughout the United Nations Guidance and tools development on article 5.2 (a) regarding coordination mechanisms Increased engagement with country needs assessments Engagement with the Mechanisms of Assistance Work Group to help coordinate article 5-related technical support to parties Assessment of tobacco and non-communicable diseases in the post-2015 development agenda discussions

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
Article 6 (Price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco)	World Bank	Provide support to countries with the design, implementation and evaluation of tobacco tax issues, upon countries' demand. This effort would complement ongoing efforts by the WHO/ Tobacco Free Initiative in this area Collaborate with the Framework Convention secretariat to assess the possibility of having joint needs assessment missions with regard to article 6 issues Conduct research to assess the potential regressivity of tobacco taxes as well as the impact of tobacco use on poverty Conduct research on the effects of tax increases on tobacco economic agents, particularly farmers, as well as illicit tobacco trade	Supported substantial tax increases in the Philippines, the Gambia, Senegal and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dialogue initiated in the Russia Federation Participated in assessments in Senegal, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan and, indirectly, in the Gambia Initiated contact to launch the study Carried out in the Philippines	Continue to provide support to the Philippines, deepen dialogue in the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus, and initiate dialogue with Bangladesh Participate in the upcoming assessments missions in Nepal and other countries Continue the study Carry out analysis in Bangladesh and likely in other countries on demand
Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke)	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Implement the ILO SOLVE programme (an interactive educational programme designed to assist in the development of policy and action to address health promotion issues in the workplace) to promote smoke-free workplaces	The ILO contribution to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases concerns the prevention of occupational diseases and workplace health promotion. As tobacco use is one of the main risk factors for non-communicable diseases, the promotion of smoke-free workplaces (measures to provide protection from exposure to tobacco smoke in public places)	ILO will continue its training programme at the International Training Centre (ITC) and supporting Member States through decent work country programmes in 2013-2014. In 2013 two courses (English and Spanish) were planned to take place. The English course took place in March

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
			is integrated in the ILO workplace health promotion programme One of the main tools for the implementation of the programme is the training package SOLVE: integrating health promotion in occupational safety and health policies The SOLVE methodology was reviewed and updated in 2011. The training package addresses the following areas and their interactions: managing workplace health promotion; work-related stress; alcohol and drugs at work; violence at work; HIV and AIDS at work; tobacco and smoke-free workplaces; nutrition at work; physical activity for health; healthy sleep and economic stress. At the end of the training, participants are able to design a preventive programme and plan of action dealing with all the above-mentioned subjects and implement them in their workplace The package includes: a participant's workbook; a trainer's guide; the lesson plans; a CD-ROM with participants' names and background material	A number of United Nations agencies and multinationals have expressed their interest in being trained by ILO on the SOLVE methodology, including FAO, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNDP. An ad hoc training course could be organized for the United Nations system at ITC if funds are made available and an adequate number of participants are identified. The maximum number of participants for this highly interactive course is 25. The interest to be trained in the methodology could be explored among the agencies involved in the Task Force

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
			Since 2011, it has been integrated in the curricula of ITC in Turin, Italy, and it is run as a train-the-trainers course every year, at least in one of the three languages. The purpose of the train-the-trainers course is to contribute to improving national competences in Member States to support workplace health promotion. Consequently, the SOLVE programme is also implemented in the framework of decent work country programmes, in collaboration with relevant national authorities and employers' and workers' organizations, as well as training specialists, public services, safety and health practitioners, and non-governmental organizations. SOLVE uses the social dialogue approach to promote the implementation of successful workplace and community initiatives with the involvement of key stakeholders. Regarding tobacco, SOLVE promotes the strengthening of measures to protect workers' health from tobacco smoke, creating smoke-free workplaces, supporting measures addressing tobacco dependence and encouraging cessation through referral for counselling,	

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
			psychological support, nicotine replacement and education programmes, as well as information on available support and health-care services. Reference is also made to the sharing of good practices, international and national regulatory measures and their enforcement, including the Framework Convention TC	
Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products)	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Discuss with partners legal options on packaging and labelling of tobacco products under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights		Study planned on packaging and labelling of tobacco products from an intellectual property perspective. Results envisaged for the third quarter of 2013
Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness)	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (International Bureau of Education)	Include tobacco awareness in school curricula and teacher training Promote smoke-free schools		
	World Bank	Integrate tobacco control in education programmes within trust funds	Not initiated	May be possible to initiate this year
Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)	World Customs Organization	Provide support to the future implementation of the Protocol on Illicit Trade		

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
Article 17 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Agriculture Department)	Provide technical support in tobacco-growing areas for sustainable crop production intensification with the goal of diversifying production, reduce environmental and health impacts and the risk of tobacco growers depending on a single product (subject to funding)		
	FAO (Economic and Social Development Department)	Update of the world tobacco production and market situation (subject to funding: minimum budget required $50,000)		
	UNCTAD	Collaborate with key partners, including international agencies, to conduct research and analysis of the tobacco supply chain "from the farm to the cigarette". Carry out a study on export diversification strategies in tobacco-producing developing countries in Africa and Asia		Study planned on tobacco value chain analysis and diversification. Study envisaged to be finalized in the third quarter of 2013. Focus on Africa A "diagnostic" study will review export diversification policies and strategies of tobacco-producing developing countries in Africa and Asia
	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Provide expert input to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Working Group on articles 17 and 18	On article 18: national capacity-building workshop on implementation of the Safety and Health in Agriculture: code of practice With regard to article 17 per se, see below Translation of the code into Russian and Arabic	Zimbabwe

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
		Update a 2003 study on the state of employment in the tobacco sector globally	Work already undertaken	Publication on hold; will be decided after tripartite consultation
		Develop an economic and labour market analysis	Ongoing on a permanent basis	These areas of work fall under the responsibility of various ILO units and departments. Work in these areas is produced on a continuous and permanent basis
		Toolkit on agricultural cooperatives		
		Training material for establishing small enterprises		
		Local development		
		Value chain development tools (rural)		
		Rural skills development tools		
		Develop research on diagnostic and scope studies on decent work, food security and alternatives for tobacco growers		
		Promote social dialogue to support economically viable livelihoods for tobacco growers and workers		
	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Promote a green economy framework for economically viable alternatives for tobacco growers and workers		

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	While not specific to the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention, WIPO provides technical assistance and capacity-building support to Governments and institutions for actions to help farmers add value to their crops and agribusinesses using branding and intellectual property tools		
Article 18 (Protection of the environment and the health of persons)	UNEP	Provide technical assistance related to: • Sound management of chemicals in tobacco growing • Environment audit/impact assessment of tobacco growing • Integrating tobacco-related issues within national environmental protection programmes		
Articles 20, 21 and 22 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information; reporting and exchange of information; cooperation in the scientific,	UNCTAD	Share databases and information on: • Developing trade information systems on tobacco jointly with WHO • Trade indicators, such as export revenue • Trade data (all bilateral official trade data)	Meeting held with the WHO Tobacco Free Initiative on trade data issues to discuss availability and potential process	Most of these data can be made available upon request in 2013

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
technical and legal fields, and provision of related experience)		• Border measures including import tariffs and tariff rate quotas • Non-tariff measures		
	UNDP	Integrate Convention/ non-communicable diseases reporting into the *Human Development Report*		Integrate non-communicable diseases into the 2014 report.
	World Bank	Cooperate with WHO for harmonizing of tobacco questions into surveys such as the *Living Standards Measurement Study* and like surveys, and provide input with regard to existing questions on tobacco in WHO surveys Cooperate with the Convention secretariat to analyse data collected from the reporting instrument	Effort launched with WHO but no follow-up yet	Try to re-engage with WHO
	ILO	Information/knowledge-sharing on: • Databases on labour market indicators, including employment data in the tobacco sector • Occupational injuries statistics from household surveys • Databases on labour standards		

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
		• Databases on child labour (SIMPOC) • Decent work country profiles and programmes		
Cross cutting issues				
Development	UNDP	Integrate issues related to the Framework Convention/ non-communicable diseases into discussions held at Rio+20 and into post-Millennium Development Goals discussions Incorporate issues related to the Framework Convention/ non-communicable diseases into the Millennium Development Goals acceleration framework (focus on Goals 4 and 5) Integrate issues related to the Framework Convention/ non-communicable diseases into United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes/guidelines/policy coherence/multisector convening Provide support for operational research to ensure that development instruments (e.g. social protection) do not have a negative impact on progress in combating non-communicable diseases.	Non-communicable diseases mentioned in Rio+20 outcome document, "The future we want" UNDP acted on the United Nations Advisory Group to the health thematic consultation and ensured inclusion of non-communicable diseases and tobacco Baseline assessment of the degree of integration of the Framework Convention into development instruments (co-publication with the Framework Convention secretariat) Acceleration framework in Tonga on non-communicable diseases	Provision of technical support to Resident Coordinators' offices to fully implement post needs assessment action plan execution with the Parties Review of tobacco as a component of the post-2015 development agenda Follow-up to integration assessment to develop tools for Framework Convention integration into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks Operational research regarding non-communicable disease-sensitive social protection in the Caribbean region Provision of support to at least one Pacific island country to assess the poverty and broader development impacts of tobacco use, ultimately to help position tobacco within national development strategies and facilitate whole-of-Government responses

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
	UN-Women	Advocate for the inclusion of gender advocates and women's organizations at all levels of policymaking and the implementation of the Framework Convention		
		Advocate for the elimination of the targeted marketing of tobacco products towards women, particularly young women, and provide support for the promotion of gender-specific tobacco control strategies that have an impact on women's health		
	UNCTAD	Raise awareness among developing and developed country policymakers about the possible interaction between international investment agreements and the Framework Convention		International investment agreement issues a note on international investment agreements and tobacco control policies in the second quarter of 2013
		Provide assistance in sustainable friendly approaches to the (re)negotiation and interpretation of international investment agreements		
Trade (and investment)	UNCTAD	Promote coherence between international investment agreements and other public policies/bodies of international law (e.g. the Framework Convention)	UNCTAD established an internal working group on tobacco control issues and development, covering areas of trade, investment, intellectual property and commodities	Opening of the UNCTAD international investment agreement training courses to a limited number of health experts in 2013

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
	UNCTAD	Update analysis on trade and tobacco control (e.g. implications of existing and new agreements, and regional blocks), for inclusion in the report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session	Owing to a study published by WHO in 2012 on that topic, this analysis will not be carried out	
	WTO	Within the scope of its mandate, cooperate with the Framework Convention secretariat to share information on the interface between trade policies and tobacco control		
	World Bank	Help facilitate an internal dialogue between World Bank colleagues working on trade and those working on public health to do work on trade and tobacco issues	Efforts made, but not yet successful	Efforts to be continued

Annex II

Members of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control

- Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- International Labour Organization
- International Monetary Fund
- International Telecommunication Union
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Secretariat of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Fund for International Partnerships
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- United Nations Population Fund
- World Bank
- World Customs Organization
- World Health Organization
- World Intellectual Property Organization
- World Trade Organization

United Nations E/2013/62

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 May 2013

Original: English

Substantive session of 2013
Geneva, 1-26 July 2013
Item 7 (e) of the provisional agenda*
Coordination, programme and other questions

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), prepared pursuant to Council resolution 2011/19.

* E/2013/100.

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Report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/19, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to transmit, at the substantive session of 2013, a report prepared by the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in collaboration with its co-sponsors and other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, on progress made in implementing a coordinated response by the United Nations system to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

We stand at a critical moment in the world's more than three-decades-long effort to address the historic challenge posed by HIV. There is good news. The number of new HIV infections in 2011 was 20 per cent lower than in 2001, the number of children who acquired HIV infection declined by 24 per cent from 2009 to 2011, and AIDS-related deaths in 2011 were 24 per cent lower than in 2005. Since 1995, antiretroviral therapy has added 14 million life-years in low- and middle-income countries. Powerful new tools have emerged to prevent new infections, including antiretroviral treatment for HIV prevention and voluntary medical male circumcision. Buoyed by the promise of research breakthroughs and by the progress that has been achieved, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has promoted a vision: zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Yet, while optimism has never been greater in the history of the AIDS response, nor more warranted, critical challenges remain. New infections are on the rise in many countries and regions, and HIV prevention efforts are inadequately resourced and insufficiently implemented. Although 8 million people in low- and middle-income countries received antiretroviral treatment in 2011, nearly half of all people eligible for treatment did not receive it, and many individuals who initiate treatment do not remain in care. Achieving the three zeros will be impossible without dramatically stronger commitment to evidence- and human rights-based and gender-transformative approaches that address the needs of young people and key populations, including men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who use drugs, and sex workers, as well as the intimate partners of those groups. While funding for HIV activities in low- and middle-income countries rose in 2011, including through increased domestic investments, substantially greater resources will be needed to reach those who currently lack access to essential services, and plans must be put in place to ensure long-term sustainability of the response.

In 2011, the General Assembly adopted the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV/AIDS (resolution 65/277), which set forth a series of concrete targets to be achieved by 2015. The Political Declaration aims to accelerate progress towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to support achievement of Millennium Development Goal 6, which calls for concerted global action to halt and begin to reverse the epidemic by 2015. Recognizing also the links between HIV and security, the Security Council, in resolution 1983 (2011), called for incorporation of HIV-specific strategies and programmes in United Nations peacekeeping missions. While major

progress has been made towards reversing the epidemic, Goal 6 has not been reached, especially in the many countries where prevention efforts lag and where antiretroviral treatment has yet to be brought to scale.

As the only jointly co-sponsored programme within the United Nations system, UNAIDS combines the efforts of 11 co-sponsors (International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UN-Women, World Food Programme, World Health Organization and the World Bank) and a secretariat under a shared vision and a single budget and results-based framework to focus on AIDS. The Joint Programme's approach, which enhances the coherence, coordination, transparency and strategic impact of United Nations action on HIV at the country level, aligns with and supports General Assembly resolution 67/226, entitled "Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system".

This report summarizes progress achieved towards 10 key targets based on the 2011 Political Declaration, with a specific focus on contributions by the Joint Programme. In addition to noting the important advances made, it also describes programmatic and policy gaps that slow progress towards those goals.

With the deadline for the 2015 targets rapidly approaching, now is the time for the global community to sustain and scale up the gains made and strengthen its commitment to the response. AIDS must be recognized and embraced as a shared responsibility, necessitating reinvigorated action, international solidarity and strategic focus. The AIDS resource gap must be closed, and all stakeholders must recommit to use evidence and human rights principles to guide future actions.

I. Update on the epidemic

1. AIDS remains one of the world's most serious health, development and human rights challenges. At the end of 2011, an estimated 34.0 million people were living with HIV worldwide. With about 5.0 per cent of its residents estimated to be living with HIV, sub-Saharan Africa remains the region most heavily affected by the epidemic, accounting for 71 per cent of new infections in 2011. Next to sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean (1.0 per cent) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (1.0 per cent) have the highest estimated regional prevalence. There is considerable variation within and among countries and regions with respect to HIV prevalence, epidemiological patterns and the evolution of the epidemic.

2. The number of people (adults and children) newly infected with HIV in 2011 (2.5 million) was 20 per cent lower than in 2001. Progress has been especially noteworthy among children, with 24 per cent fewer children newly infected with HIV in 2011 (330,000) than in 2009 (430,000). As access to antiretroviral therapy has expanded, with coverage of 54 per cent in 2011 under current treatment guidelines, the number of AIDS-related deaths in 2011 (1.7 million) was 24 per cent lower than in 2005. Since 2004, tuberculosis-related deaths among people living with HIV have declined by 25 per cent globally and by 28 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa.

3. In 2011, women accounted for 49 per cent of all adults living with HIV worldwide and for 58 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa. Globally, one young woman is newly infected every minute, and young women in sub-Saharan Africa are more than twice as likely as young men their own age to be living with HIV. Although HIV prevalence among young people (aged 15-24) fell globally by nearly 27 per cent from 2001 to 2011, the epidemic continues to have considerable impact on young people, who account for 14 per cent of all people living with HIV and 39 per cent of new infections.

4. While new infections fell by 42 per cent in the Caribbean and by 25 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa from 2001 to 2011, new infections are increasing in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as in a number of countries in Asia. From 2005 to 2011, AIDS-related mortality rose by 21 per cent in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and by 17 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa.

5. Certain key populations are much more heavily affected by the epidemic than the general population. According to surveys, female sex workers are on average 13.5 times more likely than other women to be living with HIV. The prevalence of HIV is 22 times higher among people who inject drugs than for the population as a whole, and 19 times higher for men who have sex with men than for men generally. Data on transgender people is severely limited, although available evidence indicates extremely high HIV prevalence.

6. While global trends are encouraging, AIDS is far from over. AIDS remains the leading cause of death among women aged 15 to 49 years worldwide, the leading cause of life-years lost in Southern and Eastern Africa, the third leading cause of death in Eastern Europe, and the sixth leading cause of death worldwide. As of December 2011, 17.3 million children in the world had lost one or both parents to AIDS.

II. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

7. To provide leadership in the AIDS response, UNAIDS draws on the experience and expertise of 11 co-sponsors and a largely field-based secretariat, with two thirds of its staff deployed in more than 90 regional and country offices. At the country level, UNAIDS operates through Joint United Nations Teams and Joint Programmes of Support, which promote coherent and effective United Nations action in support of an effective national AIDS response, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator. UNAIDS frequently serves as a model of "Delivering as one" and is supporting the development of the second generation of this United Nations-wide initiative to increase coordination and coherence at all levels.

8. As the epidemic has evolved, so has UNAIDS, adding UN-Women as the eleventh co-sponsor in 2012, taking steps to enhance accountability for results, and undertaking focused streams of work to accelerate progress towards the 2015 targets. UNAIDS has repositioned its resources, reallocating human and financial resources from global to regional and country levels and prioritizing countries most heavily affected by the epidemic.

A. Getting to zero: the UNAIDS Strategy 2011-2015, the 2011 Political Declaration and Security Council resolution 1983 (2011)

9. To advance the vision of a world with zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths, UNAIDS put in place a five-year strategy for 2011-2015 that provides a framework for the Joint Programme's work. With the aim of galvanizing a transformation in the response, the UNAIDS Strategy has three strategic directions: to revolutionize HIV prevention; to catalyse the next phase of treatment, care and support; and to advance human rights and gender equality in the response.

10. Under the Strategy, UNAIDS has established specific goals for 2015, which align with those in the 2011 Political Declaration. Recognizing that the key test of the Joint Programme's success is achieving real results in countries, UNAIDS has identified 38 high-impact countries in which it has intensified its focus to accelerate progress in "getting to zero". UNAIDS advocacy is emphasizing the shared responsibility of the AIDS response, urging all stakeholders to redouble their efforts and renew their commitment to accelerate progress.

11. In accordance with the mandate of Security Council resolution 1983 (2011), the Joint Programme Department of Peacekeeping Operations collaboration on AIDS in several conflict and post-conflict countries has forged strong working partnerships with peacekeeping missions, including in three priority areas: sexual and gender-based violence; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and security sector reform. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo comprehensive sexual and gender-based violence training has been implemented, and subsequently military trainers of the country's Armed Forces, Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC), have provided sexual and gender-based violence sensitivity training to 2,000 FARDC soldiers with the aim of affecting attitudes and social norms of the 120,000 FARDC soldiers. In South Sudan, UNAIDS has been supporting the roll-out of HIV and sexual and gender-

based violence sensitization programming to local communities, with increasing utilization of United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)-supported voluntary counselling and testing services and provision of services for HIV post-exposure prophylaxis for rape survivors.

B. Delivering as one

12. In line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, UNAIDS prioritizes coherence, coordination and delivering as one at country, regional and global levels. In 2013, UNAIDS launched a process to assess policies and practices against actions recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 67/226, entitled "quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system". As a pioneering instrument designed to promote the coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of United Nations efforts to address HIV, UNAIDS is well placed to offer concrete experience in implementing resolution 67/226, including the Joint Programme's success in focusing on results, lowering transaction costs and streamlining procedures.

13. Since 2005, UNAIDS has adhered to a division of labour among the secretariat and co-sponsors for the delivery of technical support. Following the Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS, which called on the Joint Programme to take steps to be more "focused, strategic, flexible and responsive, efficient and accountable", UNAIDS, beginning in 2009, undertook a comprehensive review of experience with the division of labour. In particular, the Joint Programme examined ways to better define roles and responsibilities and to operationalize work in cross-cutting areas such as gender and human rights. The revised approach, adopted in 2010, replaced the previous division of labour with an approach that facilitates collaboration towards priority objectives. The revised division of labour consolidates UNAIDS support to countries in 15 areas of work, with one or two agencies specified as conveners responsible for facilitating collaboration within each area. This approach not only enhances the coherence, coordination and impact of UNAIDS efforts at the country level, but increases the transparency of the Joint Programme's work at the country level and alerts diverse stakeholders to optimal entry points.

14. UNAIDS has intensified its efforts to maximize the strategic impact of its assistance to countries. Within countries, UNAIDS Country Coordinators work within the Resident Coordinator system to advance the work of the United Nations country team. UNAIDS has adopted innovative organizational and strategic arrangements to strengthen the effectiveness and coordination of the United Nations system's efforts in countries. Joint United Nations Teams on AIDS, which are in place in 86 countries, provide a platform for communication and coordination among all United Nations agencies engaged in HIV-related activities at the country level. In many countries, these joint teams have been expanded to include non-United Nations partners, contributing to broader efforts to enhance the coordination and impact of national AIDS responses. In 69 countries, United Nations partners have implemented Joint United Nations Programmes of Support on AIDS, thus integrating the entirety of the United Nations system's support for the national AIDS response.

C. Accountability

15. The Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework is a unique accountability instrument within the United Nations system, mobilizing and focusing the contributions of 11 co-sponsors and the secretariat to achieve common specific results towards the targets and elimination commitments in the 2011 Political Declaration. The Framework is the key vehicle for operationalizing the UNAIDS Strategy 2011-2015 and for holding the UNAIDS family accountable for results. It maximizes the coherence, coordination and impact of the United Nations response to AIDS by combining the efforts of co-sponsors and the secretariat in a single strategic, results-driven framework. Developed in partnership with diverse stakeholders from all regions, the Framework catalyses and leverages resources for the AIDS response as well as broader health, development and human rights outcomes.

16. The Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework clearly links results of the Joint Programme with global targets, providing the whole of the results chain from inputs through impact. A series of output and outcome indicators, linked to achievement of the strategic outcomes set forth in the 2011 Political Declaration, have been developed to promote accountability within the Joint Programme, with annual performance reviews undertaken to assess progress. The Framework specifies individual co-sponsor contributions and expected outcomes, using a division of labour that leverages respective co-sponsor and secretariat expertise and comparative advantages. The Framework provides transparent explanation of how the individual contributions of co-sponsors and the secretariat function synergistically to achieve broad-based results.

17. Baselines and targets on core Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework indicators form the basis against which progress in implementing United Nations Joint Programmes of Support are measured. With flexibility to enable core indicators to be selected based on national contexts and epidemic profiles, Joint United Nations Teams on AIDS report on the outcomes and outputs relevant to their settings. The review of results against country targets offers the Joint Teams the opportunity to improve performance in order to strengthen existing systems and build capacity.

18. In 2012, UNAIDS launched the Joint Programme Monitoring System, an innovative instrument for reporting country-level results. The System is a web-based tool to monitor the performance and results of UNAIDS and enable the Joint Programme to make adjustments based on performance information. It allows for collection of detailed results from all countries. Indicator reporting is complemented by thematic reporting, which provides a fuller picture of the contribution of individual co-sponsors and the secretariat and the Joint Programme as a whole towards specific outcomes. The Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework effectively implements the key requirements and principles of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, focusing on results-based planning and budgeting, accountability for results, strengthened joint work, enhanced effectiveness, transparency and system coherence. Over time transaction costs are being reduced.

19. Performance monitoring of the Joint Programme has been further strengthened by a series of external assessments of UNAIDS performance. In 2012, the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network, a network of 17 donor

countries, positively assessed UNAIDS performance, citing the Joint Programme's technical expertise, recognized value to partners, consultative approach and partnership cultivation, in particular in relation to civil society. Similar strengths were noted in performance assessments of UNAIDS undertaken by Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, along with other steps, including cost-cutting measures undertaken by the Joint Programme, the strong emphasis of UNAIDS on gender and other key issues, and its strategic leadership in advocacy and coordination. Independent reviews also recommended additional steps to buttress the Joint Programme's performance management system, including better linking results with investments; ensuring that all plans and strategies have clear targets, baselines and milestones; scaling up technical leadership; and strengthening partnerships beyond co-sponsors.

20. UNAIDS has strengthened its financial management accountability and reporting through the secretariat's implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), a set of accounting standards used by public sector agencies worldwide in preparation of financial statements. Implementation of IPSAS has strengthened UNAIDS accountability to donors, provided comprehensive information on costs, improved accounting for income and expenditure, strengthened monitoring of revenue and expenses, enhanced transparency and harmonization of UNAIDS financial reports and statements with those across the broader United Nations system, and improved the consistency and comparability of financial information. Training of staff, including in country offices, has increased awareness of the Joint Programme's business and financial processes and clarified roles and responsibilities for financial management. The external auditors issued an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements of UNAIDS for 2012.

D. Partnership

21. UNAIDS is a visionary partnership, uniting under a single umbrella the HIV-related efforts of 11 co-sponsors and the Secretariat. The Joint Programme's commitment to partnership extends much further than the United Nations, recognizing the vital roles played by diverse stakeholders in an effective AIDS response. UNAIDS prioritizes partnerships that contribute to national ownership of the AIDS response, foster South-South cooperation, engage people living with HIV and the communities most heavily affected, and link HIV with the broader health, peace, development, human rights, gender equality and social justice agendas. In 2012, UNAIDS launched a pioneering new strategy to engage young people in the AIDS response, using crowdsourcing technology and new media tools and drawing from the input of more than 5,000 young people in 79 countries.

22. To implement the UNAIDS Strategy 2011-2015, the Joint Programme comprehensively assessed its approach to partnership, with the goal of strengthening strategic partnerships and identifying new partners in moving forward. UNAIDS assists the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by supporting the Fund's mobilization of new resources, aiding countries in developing sound proposals and implementing approved projects, and providing normative guidance to inform and support Global Fund efforts. In 2012, UNAIDS provided technical contributions to more than 19 grants under review, yielding funding decisions worth US$ 1.9 billion for HIV programmes. As the Global Fund has implemented a new funding model that prioritizes high-impact interventions and support for countries in

greatest need, UNAIDS has actively coordinated the technical support efforts of several major donors for early and interim new applications. UNAIDS works closely with the Global Fund, civil society and other partners to support greater and smarter investments in community systems strengthening and human rights and gender programming. UNAIDS works closely, at global and country levels, with other major providers of HIV assistance, including the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), helping to maximize the impact of the Emergency Plan's funding and leveraging its support to strengthen health systems.

23. Over the last two years, UNAIDS championed a new, more accountable and systematic approach to partnerships with civil society, applicable across the Joint Programme. The UNAIDS Guidance for partnerships with civil society, including people living with HIV and key populations, was developed through an inclusive, participatory process with inputs from more than 70 civil society representatives in addition to co-sponsor and secretariat colleagues. The UNAIDS Guidance Document 2011 highlights key principles and minimum standards for working with civil society partners and aims to ensure consistency in partnership behaviour across the Joint Programme.

24. The Joint Programme's partnerships with civil society are wide-ranging. In collaboration with the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) and the International Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS, UNAIDS has played an active role in systematizing and sustaining dialogue between religious leaders and national networks of people living with HIV. Partnering with people living with HIV, UNAIDS has helped to develop and implement "Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention", a new approach that links HIV prevention and treatment for people living with HIV, situating them within a comprehensive response grounded in human rights. In 2012, UNAIDS established a dialogue platform to ensure ongoing input from women living with HIV and worked alongside 30 of those women to generate the "Women Out Loud" report focused on women's role in advancing progress towards 10 key global AIDS targets.

25. UNAIDS has a track record of transformative partnerships where the private sector has linked up in new ways, sharing responsibility and accountability for results. An example is the Business Leadership Council, launched in Davos in 2012, to galvanize private sector engagement in support of the Global Plan. Council members are a select group of leaders who represent media, finance, telecommunications, health, technology and retail, and who are committed to bring business acumen and resources to the challenge. The Council is focusing on policy shifts, advocacy and financing, and on scaling up support in several priority countries. The Council co-authored, with the Clinton Foundation's HIV/AIDS initiative and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a business case to accelerate the debate on this topic, and is exploring how an innovative financing mechanism could be created to bridge some of the financial gaps. The Business Leadership Council also supported the development of a plan for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV at the State and provincial level in Nigeria.

III. Towards the 2015 deadline: results in 10 priority areas

26. The discussion below summarizes progress achieved towards 10 key targets for 2015 and describes the contributions of the Joint Programme towards those global objectives.

A. Reduce sexual transmission of HIV by 50 per cent

27. Declines in HIV incidence — both globally and, most notably, in many high-prevalence countries in sub-Saharan Africa — highlight gains in preventing new infections. In several countries in sub-Saharan Africa, fewer young people are having sex before age 15, multiple partnerships have declined and rates of condom use have increased. However, relatively modest progress has been made in recent years in reducing the annual number of new infections among adults and adolescents, with no meaningful reduction reported since 2008.

28. A number of challenges impede efforts to prevent sexual transmission. In the overwhelming majority of countries with representative surveys (26 of 31 for women and 21 of 25 for men), less than 50 per cent of young people aged 15 to 24 had accurate and comprehensive knowledge about HIV transmission and prevention, with young women and girls typically having lower HIV-related knowledge levels than males their own age. A major condom gap exists, with the international community — the primary purchaser of condoms — supplying only 3.4 billion male condoms and 43.3 million female condoms for distribution in low- and middle-income countries in 2011, far short of the 10 billion needed each year. Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) lowers the risk of female-to-male sexual transmission, but circumcision coverage is below 5 per cent of the target number of men in at least six priority countries, although there are signs that the pace of scale-up may be accelerating.

29. HIV prevention efforts are especially failing to reach those most at risk. Although those populations are substantially more likely than others to acquire HIV, prevention service coverage remains persistently inadequate. While funding for prevention programmes focused on sex workers and men who have sex with men increased from 2006 to 2011 (by 3.7-fold for sex workers, and by 3.2-fold for men who have sex with men), country contributions to those efforts tend to be minimal, with international sources accounting for 91 per cent of total HIV prevention spending for sex workers and 92 per cent for spending on men who have sex with men in 2010-2011.

30. The collective efforts of the UNAIDS co-sponsors and secretariat have contributed to recent HIV prevention gains. Joint United Nations Teams on AIDS assisted 35 countries in translating research on new technologies into implementation and scale-up, and supported 71 countries in managing the procurement and distribution of essential prevention commodities. The Joint Programme oversaw the development of a joint strategic action framework for VMMC and partnered with the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to produce and disseminate 13 country-specific briefs on the latest information on VMMC. UNAIDS strengthened national capacity for sexual and reproductive health services to young people in 82 countries and provided technical support to ministries of education in over 75 countries to strengthen the education sector's AIDS response.

High-level support was secured for the UNAIDS Eastern and Southern Africa Commitment process, which seeks to scale up good quality, age-appropriate, comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services in 21 countries in the region. The Joint Programme, through the leadership of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is the leading purchaser of female condoms and the third leading purchaser of male condoms, and a new generic specification and pre-qualification guidelines were developed for female condoms.

31. UNAIDS has undertaken extensive efforts to enhance HIV prevention efforts for key populations at higher risk. New training modules were developed and launched to build leadership capacity among young people in key populations in the Asia-Pacific region. New epidemiological and normative guidance documents were produced on HIV prevention among sex workers. The Joint Programme also supported the largest gathering of sex workers ever in connection with the 2012 International Conference on AIDS.

B. Reduce HIV transmission among people who inject drugs by 50 per cent

32. UNAIDS recommends a package of harm reduction strategies to reduce new infections among people who inject drugs. Key components of the harm reduction package include access to sterile needles and syringes, opioid substitution therapy, antiretroviral therapy and other critical health services.

33. Although evidence indicates that scaled-up harm reduction programmes sharply reduce drug-related HIV transmission, service coverage remains extremely low in most settings. Globally, only two needle-syringes were distributed monthly for every person who injected drugs in 2010, with sterile syringes used only in an estimated 5 per cent of drug injection episodes. Legal and policy obstacles — such as compulsory drug treatment or harassment of people who inject drugs by law enforcement officials — undermine the reach and effectiveness of harm reduction programmes. Underfunding by national governments also contributes to suboptimal harm reduction service coverage, with international sources supplying 92 per cent of HIV spending for people who injected drugs in 2010.

34. To expedite progress towards halving new infections among people who inject drugs by 2015, UNAIDS issued guidance for countries to set targets for universal access for people who inject drugs. Policy guidance was produced on implementing a comprehensive package of interventions for HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons and other closed settings, and comprehensive strategic information was disseminated on the global AIDS epidemic among people who inject drugs. In 2012, the Joint Programme convened a consultative process involving all co-sponsors and the secretariat, which culminated in a historic position paper urging closure of compulsory drug detention centres. In diverse countries and regions, the Joint Programme aided partners in implementing evidence-informed and human rights-based HIV programmes for people who inject drugs and supported capacity development of the International Network of People who Use Drugs.

C. Eliminate new HIV infections among children and substantially reduce AIDS-related maternal and child deaths

35. In 2011, 57 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV worldwide, and 59 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, received effective antiretroviral regimens for ending mother-to-child transmission. Coverage is substantially lower in South and South-East Asia (18 per cent) and the Middle East and North Africa (7 per cent).

36. In June 2011, UNAIDS convened 22 countries and 30 representatives of civil society, the private sector, networks of people living with HIV and international organizations to develop a road map for achieving the global goal for 2015. The resulting Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive: 2011-2015 calls for four key actions: (a) strengthen primary HIV prevention services for reproductive-age women and their partners; (b) meet the unmet need for family planning among women living with HIV; (c) provide timely HIV testing, counselling and antiretroviral therapy to pregnant women living with HIV to prevent transmission to their children; and (d) deliver HIV care, treatment and support for women living with HIV, children living with HIV and their families. As of December 2012, nearly 100 countries had begun a national roll-out of the strategic framework set forth in the Global Plan, with 738 civil society groups engaged in those efforts.

37. Numerous challenges have emerged in the quest to reach this 2015 goal. Only 28 per cent of 0-14-year-old children living with HIV who were eligible for antiretroviral treatment under current guidelines were receiving it in 2011. HIV-positive pregnant women also lag behind the overall adult population in accessing lifesaving treatment. Offering treatment to pregnant women living with HIV preserves their own health, prevents vertical transmission and prevents transmission to sexual partners. In 2013, it was reported that the number of pregnant women receiving antiretroviral therapy rose more than sevenfold after Malawi implemented a policy of offering lifelong treatment to all HIV-positive pregnant and breastfeeding women. In 2012, the World Health Organization (WHO) published an update to 2010 guidelines which outlined the operational and programmatic benefits of making treatment available to all pregnant women living with HIV regardless of immune status.

38. Priority countries have developed costed national plans to eliminate mother-to-child transmission with support from the 28-member Inter-Agency Task Team on Prevention and Treatment of HIV Infection in Pregnant Women, Mothers and Their Children (IATT). That partnership, led by United Nations agencies, includes a broad array of civil society organizations and donors.

D. Reach 15 million people living with HIV with antiretroviral therapy

39. Expansion of access to antiretroviral therapy continues, with scaled-up treatment having added 14 million life-years in low- and middle-income countries since 1995, including 9 million in sub-Saharan Africa. For the first time, a majority (54 per cent in 2011) of individuals eligible for antiretroviral therapy are now receiving it. The number of countries achieving at least 80 per cent coverage rose from 7 in 2009 to 10 in 2011, while the number of countries with coverage below 20 per cent dropped from 28 to 10. Several factors have contributed to those

encouraging results, including continued declines in prices for antiretroviral medicines in low- and middle-income countries, an increase in the number of people living with HIV who know their HIV status, and enhanced efficiency of treatment programmes as a result of improved programme management, simplified drug regimens and the development of point-of-care diagnostic tools.

40. Still, gains are not equally shared, with persistently below-average coverage reported in West and Central Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa. Globally, treatment coverage for men is notably lower than for women, owing in part to differences in health-seeking behaviours. Late diagnosis continues to undermine treatment outcomes, many individuals who test HIV-positive are not linked to treatment and care, and surveys in parts of sub-Saharan Africa suggest that one third or more of people who initiate antiretroviral therapy are no longer in care five years later. Further reductions in the cost of antiretroviral drugs (especially the second- and third-line drugs that will be increasingly needed over time) will be required to accelerate and sustain treatment scale-up, underscoring the need for effective use of flexibilities available under international intellectual property rights provisions, continued availability of generic alternatives to branded drugs, and increasing capacity of African countries to manufacture essential medicines.

41. UNAIDS contributed to the extraordinary progress towards the 2015 target of 15 million people on antiretroviral therapy. The UNAIDS Strategy aims to radically simplify treatment. The International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID) is supporting efforts to shape markets to accelerate uptake of simplified and improved treatment regimens and point-of-care diagnostic technologies. Stakeholder meetings and country missions were convened to support treatment optimization in countries. Work was undertaken to update and consolidate antiretroviral treatment guidelines, which will be launched in 2013. UNAIDS assisted the Southern African Development Community Ministers of Health in developing a strategy for pooled procurement, and the Joint Programme assisted countries such as Uganda in exploring options under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) to enhance access to affordable essential medicines.

42. The Joint Programme is placing increased priority on actions to ensure achievement of the goal of universal access to treatment. UNAIDS provided extensive guidance and support to the African Union in the development of its Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, TB and Malaria Response in Africa (2012-2015). A key element of the African Union Roadmap is the development of strong and sustainable capacity for pharmaceutical manufacturing in the region and the harmonization of regulatory systems for medicines to support local manufacturing and expedite access to important medical innovations.

E. Reduce tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 50 per cent

43. Tuberculosis remains the leading cause of death for people living with HIV, although gains in addressing HIV/tuberculosis co-infection through collaborative programming saved an estimated 1.3 million lives from 2005 to 2011. As

antiretroviral therapy has been brought to scale, efforts to minimize tuberculosis have benefited, as HIV treatment reduces the risk of tuberculosis illness among people living with HIV by 65 per cent, regardless of CD4 count. In 2011, 69 per cent of all people with tuberculosis in sub-Saharan Africa (and 40 per cent globally) were tested for HIV, and 3.2 million people living with HIV were screened for tuberculosis, with 446,000 people living with HIV receiving isoniazid preventive therapy.

44. While testing rates have significantly improved in HIV and tuberculosis care settings, greater strides are needed to ensure that individuals with HIV/tuberculosis co-infection receive the services they need. Although the WHO Policy on Collaborative TB/HIV Activities: guidelines for national programmes and other stakeholders recommends that all tuberculosis patients living with HIV should receive antiretroviral therapy as soon as possible, regardless of CD4 count, only 48 per cent of people with both tuberculosis and a documented HIV-positive test result obtained antiretroviral therapy in 2011. A rise in multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where HIV incidence is increasing, underscores the need to ensure an integrated response to the linked epidemics of HIV and tuberculosis.

45. The Joint Programme undertook numerous measures, including market interventions, technical support and assistance through the Global Drug Facility, to expedite uptake of the Xpert MDR/RIF diagnostic technology for multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis. In 2012 in Africa, the Global Drug Facility provided first-line drugs to 18 countries, treatments for multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis to six countries, and diagnostic technologies to 11 countries. A road map was developed for implementation of priority tuberculosis interventions among children, and nutritional support was provided to improve tuberculosis outcomes in 10 countries. With technical support, 119 countries tested over 50 per cent of tuberculosis patients for HIV. Efforts by the Joint Programme supported the harmonization of data and strengthening of tuberculosis monitoring and evaluation systems, reflected in the publication by WHO in 2012 of comprehensive strategic information on tuberculosis and HIV.

F. Close the global AIDS resource gap

46. In 2011, total resources of US$ 16.8 billion were available for HIV-related activities worldwide. For the first time, domestic resources (including both public and private sectors) accounted for a majority of global HIV-related spending, investing US$ 8.6 billion in 2011, more than double the amount invested by low- and middle-income countries in 2005. The historic increase in domestic spending on HIV was facilitated and supported, in part, by consistent and high-level advocacy by UNAIDS, based on the premise that the AIDS response is a shared responsibility that demands leadership, commitment and sacrifice from all stakeholders. Although national investments have grown, international donors remain critical to a well-financed response; disbursements by members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development rose by 10 per cent in 2011.

47. While redoubling efforts to mobilize sufficient resources for the response, work has also intensified to enhance the strategic focus and impact of finite financing. With the aims of maximizing the number of averted new HIV infections

and AIDS-related deaths and lowering the long-term cost curve for the response, UNAIDS has outlined an investment approach that combines scale-up of basic programmatic activities, support for critical enablers that enhance the reach and effectiveness of programmes, and focused financing to capture synergies with broader development efforts. In 2013, 29 countries were moving forward with UNAIDS assistance to implement an investment approach. Civil society partners worldwide have actively advocated for adoption of an investment approach. Major donors have also taken steps to enhance the strategic focus of their efforts. The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the largest bilateral funder of HIV activities in low- and middle-income countries, unveiled a strategic blueprint to accelerate progress towards an AIDS-free generation. In 2013, the Global Fund launched a new funding model that prioritizes assistance to the most heavily affected countries and focuses funding on interventions with the greatest public health impact.

48. Nevertheless, a major resource gap remains. Total annual resources of US$ 22 to 24 billion will be needed by 2015 to lay the foundation for the end of the epidemic. Mobilizing the resources needed is a shared responsibility. Although low- and middle-income countries overall have increased domestic funding for the response, many countries still fail to invest resources commensurate with their economic status and national HIV burden. Inequities in financing also persist, with few national resources focused on programmes for key populations. HIV funding for women also overwhelmingly focuses on prevention of new infections in children, with limited support for programmes that address women's many other prevention and treatment needs, including but not limited to sexual and reproductive health services.

49. To help close the resource gap, UNAIDS published comprehensive data on HIV spending patterns in 2012 and analysed the potential impact of increased domestic allocations for HIV in Africa. Guidance to countries to implement investment approaches was developed and disseminated by UNAIDS. Regional joint teams aided countries in assessing their eligibility under the Transitional Funding Mechanism of the Global Fund.

G. Meet the specific needs of women and girls, and eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence

50. Women and girls face a disproportionate burden of the epidemic. Young women aged 15 to 24 years are particularly vulnerable, accounting for 22 per cent of all new HIV infections globally. Although it is well recognized that unequal gender norms increase women and girls' vulnerability to HIV and exacerbate burdens on women and girls living with HIV, attention to gender inequality in the context of AIDS responses remains insufficient. For example, in 2012, only one quarter of countries had made female condoms available to all women. Similarly, gender-based violence remains inadequately addressed as a driver of women's vulnerability to HIV.

51. In response to the above-mentioned challenges, the UNAIDS Agenda for Accelerated Country Action for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV calls for concerted efforts to help countries to address the needs and rights of women and girls, and eliminate gender inequalities, in the context of HIV. The UNAIDS Agenda

has been operationalized in approximately 100 countries since its launching in 2010. A 2012 external review found that 60 per cent of countries that have launched the Agenda have demonstrated measurable progress in strengthening their evidence base, translating political commitments into scaled-up services, and creating an enabling environment for the HIV-related needs and rights of women and girls. Notable achievements under the UNAIDS Agenda include the systematic collection of data on intimate partner violence. In addition, with the support of UNAIDS and other partners, three quarters of countries link HIV and sexual and reproductive health services. In more than two thirds of countries, women living with HIV are now regularly engaged in formal planning and review mechanisms of the national response.

52. In line with the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, UNAIDS has played a leadership role in raising awareness of the links between HIV and sexual and gender-based violence and in advocating for effective action to prevent such violence. Five United Nations agencies, the United States Government and the private sector have joined together in Together for Girls, a partnership that works with nine countries to build the evidence base on violence against girls and other children and supports multisectoral action to address the problem. In addition, Executive Director of UNAIDS, Michel Sidibé, and the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, launched the We Will Speak Out Coalition in March 2011 to partner with churches to address sexual and gender-based violence, launching collaborative work in five countries.

53. Despite the progress described, significant challenges remain. Work on gender equality and HIV remains under-resourced, and questions persist regarding the sustainability of recent momentum to address the needs and rights of women and girls in the context of HIV through a comprehensive approach that strengthens advocacy, evidence, service delivery and accountability for gender-transformative HIV responses.

H. Eliminate stigma and discrimination and reduce punitive laws against people living with or vulnerable to HIV

54. Stigma and discrimination, as well as punitive laws and policies, against people living with or vulnerable to HIV continue to hinder efforts to implement sound, evidence-informed and human rights-based responses. According to data collected through the People Living with HIV Stigma Index, stigmatizing attitudes towards, and mistreatment of, people living with HIV remains widespread. Research findings indicate that substantial percentages of people living with HIV have experienced verbal and physical abuse, social ostracism, job loss and emotional distress. The evidence indicates that those most vulnerable, such as key populations, including migrant populations, are more likely to be verbally insulted or physically assaulted, to lose employment and to experience shame than the general population. Discrimination undermines effective responses by denying or diminishing the quality of services for people living with or at risk of HIV. Meanwhile, stigma is deterring people from accessing the services they need, reduces the willingness to disclose one's HIV infection to partners, and blunts efforts to mobilize diverse stakeholders to respond with solidarity and compassion to HIV.

55. The Global Commission on HIV and the Law, an independent commission supported by the Joint Programme, recommended that countries explicitly bar HIV-related discrimination; refrain from criminalizing HIV exposure, non-disclosure or transmission; implement specific protections for women and girls; pursue legal measures to increase treatment access; and remove punitive or discriminatory laws and policies regarding key populations and vulnerable groups. Notwithstanding the urgent need to take effective action to eliminate stigma and discrimination, nearly 4 in 10 countries in 2012 reported having no specific legal provisions to prevent or address HIV-related discrimination, and 45 per cent of countries had no legal services in place to assist those who experience such discrimination to pursue their rights. At least 60 per cent of countries have laws, regulations and policies that present obstacles to effective prevention, treatment, care and support for key populations, and about 60 countries have adopted laws that specifically criminalize HIV transmission. Most countries have laws in place that deem aspects of sex work to be illegal; punitive approaches to drug use are widespread, and more than 40 per cent of the States Members of the United Nations criminalize same-sex sexual relations.

56. UNAIDS has been an advocate for the health and human rights of men who have sex with men and transgender people. UNAIDS calls have been supported by strong statements by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

57. Through the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, UNAIDS has intensified its efforts to eliminate stigma and discrimination and promote national responses that are grounded in human rights and that implement programmes to support those rights. UNAIDS developed a guidance note on programmes to reduce stigma and discrimination and ensure access to justice in the context of HIV, as well as a human rights costing tool to inform HIV-relevant human rights programmes. The Joint Programme provided objective evidence of the impact of punitive laws, policies and practices on HIV and health outcomes. UNAIDS supported action on HIV and the law in 73 countries, including 31 countries identified by UNAIDS as high-impact. Reviews of the legal environment were supported in 51 countries (including 18 high-impact countries), and national dialogues resulted in the development of 16 national and 21 sectoral workplace policies on HIV. In partnership with the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS supported 36 countries to finalize and report on their research for the People Living with HIV Stigma Index, with similar efforts under way in 34 additional countries. UNAIDS issued a joint statement involving 11 United Nations system agencies calling for the closure of compulsory drug detention and rehabilitation centres for sex workers. UNAIDS provides ongoing assistance to the Global Fund on development of the human rights aspects of the Fund's new strategic plan and its implementation under the new funding model.

I. Eliminate HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence

58. A welcome trend is apparent with regard to HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence. The number of countries and territories with such restrictions fell from 96 in 2000 to 44 in 2013. Countries are increasingly recognizing that such laws are discriminatory and lack any public health justification. Despite this

encouraging trend, 44 countries and territories still deny equal freedom of movement of people living with HIV based solely on their HIV status. Among other things, such restrictions may also involve mandatory HIV testing, summary deportation and denial of asylum.

59. In support of efforts to eliminate HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence, UNAIDS continues to monitor the number of countries with such restrictions in place, encouraging those with such restrictions to repeal them, and supporting national coalitions to work for their removal. The Joint Programme supported the recent elimination of travel restrictions in Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Moldova. In 2012, UNAIDS, in partnership with GBCHealth, mobilized more than 40 global corporate chief executive officers to sign a pledge opposing HIV-related entry, stay and residence restrictions, urging repeal of such laws as unnecessary burdens on the ability of businesses to send human resources where they are most needed.

J. Eliminate parallel systems for HIV-related services to strengthen integration of the AIDS response

60. The AIDS response both contributes to the broader development agenda and benefits from gains across the full breadth of the Millennium Development Goals. Recognizing the interdependent links between AIDS and the broader development advances, the 2011 Political Declaration called for concerted efforts to link the AIDS response more closely with the broader development, health and human rights agenda.

61. Substantial integration of HIV with other health and development initiatives is apparent, both within and beyond health systems. As a comprehensive review of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief recently found, HIV programmes have yielded substantial health benefits beyond HIV, increasing life expectancy, reducing tuberculosis incidence and mortality and strengthening health systems. Tuberculosis and HIV services have been closely integrated in many settings, services to prevent children from acquiring HIV have been situated in maternal and child health services, and the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon (jointly launched by the George W. Bush Institute, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Susan G. Komen for the Cure and UNAIDS) is working to expand HIV, cervical and breast cancer screening and treatment for women in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. HIV interventions have been integrated broadly across all aspects of humanitarian operations, prevention services for HIV and gender-based violence have been linked in conflict and post-conflict settings, and numerous countries have worked to integrate HIV interventions in broader social protection systems.

62. Using core funds from the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, UNAIDS has developed tools and processes to enable countries to create incentives to eliminate parallel systems through optimal design of HIV responses. A project to promote linkage of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services has proven effective in all countries where it has been implemented (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe). Funding from the World Bank was leveraged to assist countries in enhancing service

integration, and assistance was provided to 15 countries with broader maternal and child health systems to integrate prevention of new infections in children.

IV. Recommendations to accelerate progress towards achievement of the 2015 targets and commitments

63. **The Economic and Social Council may wish to consider the following actions:**

(a) **Acknowledge that while historic progress has been made in preventing new infections among adults, adolescents and young people, advancing towards the goal of eliminating new infections among children and keeping their mothers alive, and delivering life-saving treatments to people living with HIV, the AIDS epidemic is not over, demanding a renewed commitment to strengthened shared responsibility and global solidarity to lay a firm foundation for ending the AIDS epidemic. Given that Millennium Development Goal 6 remains unfulfilled, it is critical that the post-2015 development agenda include clear, prioritized, time-bound targets to accelerate progress towards an AIDS-free generation;**

(b) **Commend the support provided by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to progress made towards achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including the assistance to countries in reporting on the progress to the General Assembly, resulting in a record 186 country reports, providing the most comprehensive overview to date of the response at the country level;**

(c) **Acknowledge the close links between HIV and other global health and development objectives, underscoring the need for integration of HIV with other global movements and development initiatives at the level of strategic planning, service delivery, and monitoring and evaluation. The AIDS response provides important lessons for leveraging and strengthening the broader health, development, human rights and gender equality goals and agendas, including its results-based focus, people-centred approach, and reliance on the passionate commitment of multisectoral stakeholders, including civil society and people living with HIV;**

(d) **Recognize that the Joint Programme offers a useful example of an innovative mechanism to enhance the strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus and country-level impact of efforts by the United Nations to address difficult health and development challenges in line with and supporting General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;**

(e) **Note the continuing need to ground the AIDS response in human rights and gender equality, and to fully engage young people in the AIDS response, including their access to sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education;**

(f) **Noting the need to close the AIDS resource gap, encourage countries to scale up their domestic funding for the response and appeal to international donors to renew their commitment and solidarity in the response, including**

taking steps to ensure full and robust funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. At the same time as renewed efforts focus on mobilizing essential new resources, comparable attention must concentrate on ensuring value for money in the AIDS response, through measures to improve service efficiency and effectiveness, aligning national responses with documented epidemiological patterns and national needs, and implementing sound investments.

United Nations E/2013/63

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2013

Original: English

Substantive session of 2013
Geneva, 1-26 July 2013
Item 15 of the provisional agenda*
United Nations research and training institutes

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/11. The report coincides with the conclusion of the 2010-2012 strategic plan. Over the course of the plan, outreach to beneficiaries by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has increased significantly, with over 78,000 individuals from virtually the entire United Nations membership having benefited from UNITAR training and training-related services. The number of events has also increased, with close to 400 events now organized annually and a growing emphasis placed on more effective and efficient provision of training through increased e-learning opportunities and programming designed to enhance capabilities of learning centres in developing countries, as called for by the Council in its resolution 2011/11.

Never before in the Institute's 50-year history has programming been so diversified, with new courses and other training and training-related events responding to the needs of beneficiaries related to peace, security and diplomacy; the environment; and human mobility, local development and public finance and trade. Beneficiary reaction to UNITAR learning-related events is very positive, with 95 per cent of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that events were useful overall. Parallel to the focus on learning, institutional capacity development activities in support of the achievement of broader socioeconomic objectives continue to take on much prominence.

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The Institute has taken concrete steps to further enhance the quality of its services and has established an internal quality assurance framework for learning-related events, in addition to its efforts to align e-learning courses with internationally recognized certification schemes. The Institute has now fully implemented a results-based management framework, with the final component being the completion of a new monitoring and evaluation policy framework.

The financial performance of the Institute is stable: income in 2011 and 2012 stood at just over $21 million each year, with some 9.5 per cent of that coming from self-generated sources. Despite this stability in a challenging and uncertain financial and economic climate, non-earmarked voluntary contributions remain at alarmingly low levels, which continues to compromise the ability of the Institute to meet core operational needs and to continue to advance towards strategic objectives.

The Secretary-General recommends that Member States provide full support to UNITAR, including the necessary non-earmarked funds that will allow the Institute to meet its core requirements.

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/11 of 22 July 2011, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of that resolution at its substantive session in 2013. This is the third report prepared and submitted to the Council in compliance with General Assembly resolution 62/210 of 19 December 2007, in which a streamlined reporting arrangement for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was established.

2. The Institute's mission is to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations by delivering innovative training and conducting research on knowledge systems with a view to strengthening individual, organizational and institutional capacities. Outreach by UNITAR is extensive and targets multiple segments of society. Two particular sets of beneficiaries are given primary attention: the delegates and other actors who are engaged in intergovernmental processes to establish norms, policies and procedures in the fields of peace and security and economic and social development; and key stakeholders at the national and local levels who work to translate multilateral agreements into concrete action.

3. The Institute reached out to more than 50,000 beneficiaries during the 2010-2011 biennium. These positive results have continued into the present biennium, with the overall number of beneficiaries surpassing 27,000 for 2012, an approximately 15 per cent increase over 2010 figures of 23,688. The Institute organized 389 events in 2012, more than two thirds of which had a specific set of learning objectives and half of which were delivered with partners. Over the course of the year, individuals from 185 Member States benefited from UNITAR services; 70 per cent of the beneficiaries of training and training-related events came from African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean countries. The Institute also made noteworthy progress in balancing the gender ratio of its beneficiaries: the overall female-to-male ratio now stands at 51:49.

4. These outputs were produced by a dynamic corps of engaged and motivated professionals representing one of the most gender-balanced and diverse organizations in the United Nations system. With a present 51:49 female-to-male ratio and a 54:46 ratio of developed countries to developing countries, UNITAR closely monitors its staff composition and is committed to ensuring broad geographical representation, with a view to promoting staff diversity. Moreover, the Institute continues to engage a broad spectrum of interns, trainees and other collaborators in its programming and operations, with a view to supporting their career development and meeting organizational needs.

5. The present report coincides with three significant milestones: the conclusion of the Institute's 2010-2012 strategic plan; the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UNITAR by the General Assembly in December 1963, which UNITAR will mark later this year; and my proposal to consolidate the United Nations research and training institutes as part of the change implementation process, with a view to leveraging the institutes' existing strengths for more effective and efficient service delivery.

6. As stated in my 2009 report (E/2009/57), UNITAR embarked on a set of new strategic objectives in 2010 to advance towards its longer-term goal of becoming a world-renowned centre of excellence for the provision of high-quality training and

research related to knowledge systems. Section II of the present report synthesizes the main achievements made over the course of the planning cycle, with emphasis placed on the period 2011-2012.

7. Section III presents updated information on a number of programmatic initiatives which lay the groundwork for more efficient training for Member States, with a focus on enhancing the capabilities of learning centres in developing countries, as called for by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2011/11. The section also includes updated information on the Institute's role in promoting system-wide coordination with regard to important United Nations initiatives, such as the One United Nations training service platform for climate change (CC:Learn) and in strengthening synergy with the United Nations System Staff College in connection with the inaugural edition of the United Nations Summer Academy.

8. Section IV addresses the financial situation of the Institute, which is marked by a sustained level of income despite important funding commitments not having materialized, the closure of the Institute's Brasilia office and prolonged weakness in, and unpredictable voluntary contributions to, the General Fund.

9. Section V summarizes recent discussions on the proposed consolidation of several small United Nations entities dedicated to research, training and knowledge services, and the need to strengthen such entities for enhanced service delivery to Member States. Section VI contains a recommendation that Member States provide full support to UNITAR.

II. Achievements of the 2010-2012 strategic plan

A. Identifying and responding more effectively to beneficiary needs

1. Responses to thematic priorities

10. Never before in the 50-year history of UNITAR has programming been as diversified as it is today. New training and training-related activities related to emerging and strategic thematic priorities are being developed regularly and through an increasingly wide spectrum of partners. As previously reported, UNITAR continues to deliver a series of courses on United Nations reform, covering topics related to institutional adaptation, management reform, system-wide coherence and integrated approaches to conflict and post-conflict situations. Since the series was introduced in 2010, awareness of United Nations reform initiatives has increased greatly in diplomatic circles: some 400 New York-based diplomats have participated in nine workshops to date.

11. To assist in promoting effective intergovernmental negotiations, the Institute has intensified its training of delegates on skills and techniques for effective participation in multilateral conferences, as well as on key issues for reaching consensus (e.g. arms trade, chemicals and waste management, human rights, sustainable development). In partnership with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNITAR also continues to provide specialized support to presiding officers prior to the annual session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

12. The Institute has also intensified its efforts related to deepening understanding of key outcomes of international conferences, with particular emphasis on arms trade, the environment and sustainable development. In 2012, UNITAR launched two new online courses related to the environment. Adapting training materials developed jointly by the Institute, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Orange House Partnership, UNITAR delivered an e-learning course on classifying and labelling chemicals according to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. A second e-learning course, on the green economy, was delivered twice, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), reaching 136 stakeholders in over 50 countries.

13. The Institute has become the leading United Nations agency with regard to promoting awareness and discussing issues related to the new and rapidly expanding field of nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials. In connection with the Institute's work on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and following a series of regional workshops in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin American and Caribbean, UNITAR is assisting a group of pilot countries to assess and develop strategies related to management of nanotechnology. It is also launching an e-learning course to respond to worldwide interest in this new, rapidly expanding field of innovation.

14. Parallel to its work in strengthening capacity at the national level, the Institute continues to place emphasis on training and capacity development in the field of local governance, including the challenges that increasing urbanization trends pose for environmental sustainability and economic development. The Institute has gauged an increasing demand for training on enhanced management of basic services by local authorities, e.g. in the areas of water and sanitation, waste management and transport, through its network of 11 Centres internationaux de formation des acteurs locaux (International Training Centres for Local Actors) (CIFAL) worldwide. The network further expanded in 2012, with the creation of centres in Merida, Mexico, and in Algiers to address the increased need for capacity-building for local development in the form of municipal-level training for the delivery of basic social services. During the period 2010-2011, the network trained in excess of 14,000 beneficiaries from the vast majority of Member States.

15. As part of its strategy to extend its capacity development activities at the local level, UNITAR is focusing on post-conflict countries. It has signed a three-year partnership agreement with the Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan to provide postgraduate education to 20 high-level officials who directly oversee the country's decentralization process. Implemented in close cooperation with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the initiative will award successful participants with a master's degree in development policies and practices, following a 12-month course programme which blends face-to-face instruction in Abu Dhabi, Istanbul, Geneva and Kabul with e-learning courses in the field of public financial management. Each course has a field-study component, after which participants will be required to write a thesis on a topic aimed at improving the institutional capacity of the Government of Afghanistan at the subnational level. This approach, which builds urgently needed leadership capacity without taking key officials away from their work for long periods, is being viewed with much interest by other post-conflict countries.

16. As a crosscutting theme, gender mainstreaming and, more broadly, gender-related programming continue to figure prominently in the Institute's curriculum, particularly in the fields of peace, security and diplomacy. Building on an existing array of training activities, including e-learning peacekeeping topics (e.g. protection from sexual harassment, violence and abuse), UNITAR has scaled up its work to include specialized training in New York to build capacity for women to negotiate peace agreements and the development of an online discussion platform on women in diplomacy, in cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other partners. In 2013, the Institute is also undertaking an initiative through its office in Hiroshima, Japan, in collaboration with the University of Calgary (Canada) in order to improve gender mainstreaming in the fellowship programme for Afghanistan.

2. Growth in knowledge-sharing outreach

17. Knowledge-sharing outreach represents an important dimension of the Institute's outward-looking strategic vision. In 2012, approximately one quarter of UNITAR beneficiaries attended events organized by other organizations to which the Institute made knowledge-sharing contributions.

18. The Institute has continued its high-level engagement with the most senior officials of the United Nations responsible for the prevention and sustainable resolution of conflict, through planning and facilitating the seminar for special and personal representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General. Established in 2001 and organized since 2008 in association with the United Nations System Staff College, the seminar brings together the most senior staff at Headquarters with heads of peace missions and envoys to exchange knowledge and experience with the purpose of enhancing United Nations practice. Heads of United Nations agencies, United Nations High Commissioners and senior African Union staff, among others, participate. Since 2007, UNITAR has been facilitating the convening of the heads of mission conferences of the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, in conjunction with the seminar for special and personal representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General. A CD-ROM of the UNITAR publication *On Being a Special Representative of the Secretary-General*, based on interviews with such representatives, has also been made available to participating officials.

19. In order to contribute to the sharing of knowledge and experience among senior peacemakers in Africa, and as part of the Institute's collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa in support of the implementation of the Peace and Security Agenda of the African Union, UNITAR organized a series of high-level exchanges involving the main actors of the African peace and security architecture, as well as staff of the African Union, regional economic communities and member States of the African Union Peace and Security Council. Two high-level seminars were held on operationalizing the preventive approaches of the African peace and security architecture, and a third seminar was conducted involving a majority of the members of the Committee of Elders of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa to facilitate the further sharing of knowledge and experience in this field. These high-level seminars were conducted in addition to the annual UNITAR regional training programme to enhance conflict prevention and peacemaking in Africa for mid-level and senior officials, organized in Addis Ababa in collaboration with UNDP.

20. The Institute's outreach efforts continued to target public audiences, with outreach to 713 individuals who attended the high-level Geneva lecture series organized jointly with the United Nations Office at Geneva, as well as other special events, including a high-level panel on South-South cooperation held at the conclusion of the fifty-first session of the UNITAR Board of Trustees, held in Brazzaville in partnership with the Ministry of Scientific Research of Congo, and the Bergen symposium examining the linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction, development and human rights.

21. The Institute also displayed various aspects of its programming at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, at which UNITAR organized directly or partnered with other entities to organize 13 different activities and added substantive contributions to 11 other activities. Combined outreach by UNITAR at the Conference involved over 11,000 individuals, including approximately 10,000 delegates who visited the "My green dreams" exhibition. The diverse events resulted in a range of partnerships, including the organization of an international forum on training and skills development for green and climate-resilient jobs through collaboration with ILO, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNEP and others in 2013.

3. Increased use of technology-enhanced learning

22. Technology-enhanced learning continues to play a prominent role in the Institute's activities. The proportion of UNITAR programmes offering e-learning as a mode of training delivery doubled from 33 per cent to 66 per cent over the course of the 2010-2012 strategic plan. Courses are now offered in fields as diverse as chemicals and waste, climate change, the green economy, international law, local development, multilateral diplomacy, peacekeeping, public finance and trade, sustainable urban transportation and social media. As a result of this diversification, the proportion of e-learning courses increased from 25 per cent of all events in 2010 to over 35 per cent in 2012 (and now accounts for 50 per cent of events associated with learning outcomes). The increase in e-learning beneficiaries is equally impressive. During the past biennium, the number of e-learning course participants more than doubled, from 2,080 in 2010 to 4,315 in 2011. While the Institute registered a slight decline in the number of e-course deliveries in 2012, technology-enhanced learning is now reaching close to 5,000 beneficiaries, with registrations received from participants in 175 countries.

23. Although the potential of e-learning to increase access to beneficiaries is very important, some studies indicate that a combination of online and face-to-face delivery is the most effective in terms of lasting impact. Therefore, in addition to pursuing growth in online course offerings, the Institute is working to increase the number of blended-learning opportunities that combine face-to-face instruction with technology-enhanced learning, such as the master's degree programme in development policies and practices for Afghan officials cited earlier (see para. 15 above) and the Learning Platform on Human Mobility.

24. As the world becomes more reliant on new technologies for imparting knowledge, it is important that the United Nations offer more increased opportunities for online and/or blended learning. Much more work needs to be done through the United Nations to update instructional methodologies and to integrate the conceptualization and delivery of capacity development at all levels of governance.

25. Partnerships with more than 30 entities, including a broad spectrum of organizations of the United Nations system (e.g. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILO, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNDP, UNEP, Economic Commission for Africa and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)), non-governmental organizations (e.g. International Institute for Trade and Development, INTOSAI Development Initiative, Orange House Partnership, South Centre), academia (e.g. École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland), Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Open University (United Kingdom), University of Geneva (Switzerland), University of Gothenburg (Sweden) and World Trade Institute) and the private sector (e.g. Veolia Environnement) have contributed to this impressive growth in e-learning and, more broadly, in technology-enhanced learning.

B. Enhancing the quality and diversity of products and services

1. Quality assurance

26. The Institute has taken bold steps to further strengthen the quality of its services. Following the creation of a quality assurance committee in 2010, the Institute established a quality assurance framework for learning-related events, with a view to validating the quality of training products and services, strengthening quality and providing a platform for sharing experience sharing and lessons learned on quality review. The framework is composed of three interacting elements: a set of 16 quality standards; a self-assessment process by learning development managers and other staff; and an independent peer review process led by the quality assurance committee. To support the application of the framework, a set of guidelines has been developed which describe the standards and provide guiding questions to facilitate the understanding of the standards using practical examples, reference documents and online resources such as those on the UNITAR "Click4it" learning and training wiki.

27. In addition to providing a benchmark for quality assurance, the framework also serves as a tool to facilitate certification with external quality improvement schemes, such as the certification process for e-learning programmes and institutions in international capacity-building (ECBCheck) of the European Foundation for Quality in e-Learning. In 2012, UNITAR was awarded certification for two online peacekeeping training courses, adding to the two courses already certified in 2010 and 2011. Additional courses are expected to obtain certification by the end of 2013.

2. Training of trainers

28. In addition to efforts to diversify modes of training delivery, another noteworthy trend is the increased emphasis that the Institute is placing on multiplier effects, e.g. through the training of trainers and training of coaches, as has been pursued over the past several years in the areas of conflict resolution (Nigeria), post-conflict reconstruction (Afghanistan) and diplomacy (South Africa). Based on tangible results, UNITAR has expanded multiplier approaches in existing areas, including the training of diplomatic trainers in Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sao Tome and Principe, and extended multiplier approaches to the fields of chemicals management, climate change, peacekeeping and satellite

imagery training (see discussion under paras. 55 and 56 below). In 2013, the Institute plans to further expand this multiplier effect to the field of human mobility.

29. With very much the same objectives as the training of trainers, the Institute often identifies select participants to serve as resource persons in subsequent UNITAR training activities. For example, in connection with the Institute's work in the field of peacemaking and conflict prevention, launched in 1993, two alumni have since become special representatives of the Secretary-General, while additional alumni have become deputy special representatives of the Secretary-General. Four graduates (two female and two male) of the UNITAR training programme to enhance the conflict prevention and peacemaking capacities of indigenous peoples' representatives have been elected or named as expert members of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from the Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and Pacific regions. Two other indigenous alumni (an alumnus from Africa and an alumna from Asia) have been appointed to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. During the current reporting period, a UNITAR fellow from Africa who has since become a special representative of the Secretary-General taught in the training programme for the African region on peacemaking and conflict prevention, and three indigenous alumni (two female and one male) served as resource persons for the training session on conflict prevention for indigenous representatives, sharing their knowledge and experience related to promotion and protection of human rights, negotiation and women's empowerment for peace and development processes.

3. Broader capacity development objectives

30. While many of its outputs result from learning-related programming and, to a lesser extent, public outreach, conferences, lectures and side events, UNITAR is also engaged in a number of longer-term and larger-scale capacity development projects with broader development objectives. For instance, it is partnering with the Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana to build its capacity to execute a $6 million project that will significantly reduce polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) as part of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Chemicals. The Agency and the Institute are executing the project with the support of UNDP and financing through the Global Environment Facility. The project has thus far completed an inventory of PCBs, a national awareness campaign, draft legislation for the control of PCBs and a draft PCB management plan. Upon completion of the project in 2014, Ghana will have disposed of tons of PCBs and increased capacity to improve the safe management of the remaining amounts.

31. Similarly, UNITAR has acted as the international executing agency for over 80 national projects in the context of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. This has typically involved multi-year, multicomponent projects to assist countries to strengthen key institutional aspects for sound chemicals management, such as by undertaking national assessments and identifying priorities, developing sustainable governmental coordination mechanisms and stakeholder involvement policies, and developing and implementing action plans on top of identified priorities such as the labelling of chemicals or the monitoring of pollutant emissions.

C. Strengthening efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in delivering results

32. The Institute continues to work to strengthen its accountability framework and improve resource efficiencies and programme relevance and effectiveness, both through the implementation of results-based planning, budgeting and monitoring and through effective use of information technology systems for the planning and management of training events.

1. Centralized event management database

33. As indicated in my previous report in 2011, UNITAR has designed an event management system to provide real-time information on key dimensions of its activities. The system is conceived as a client-management interface which is designed to enable potential beneficiaries to view and search for event information, as well as apply and/or register and, where applicable, pay online. The system also enables UNITAR staff to manage and report on event and beneficiary information. It streamlines transactions and workflows and further enhances the effectiveness, efficiency and accuracy of the Institute's reporting.

2. Strengthened results-based management capacities

34. The Institute has now fully implemented a results-based management framework, linking the strategic plan and the biennial results-based programme budget to annual programme and individual workplans, as well as annual staff performance evaluation and staff development plans. Since the introduction of harmonized annual workplans in 2010, the planning and budgeting format has been improved to streamline the monitoring of expected accomplishments and outputs, the reporting of achievements and the planning of activities. Evaluation of staff performance has also been enhanced, with an assessment to be undertaken annually on the achievement of results and a set of competencies. Programme performance reporting also takes place annually against a pre-established set of results-based budget indicators and measures.

3. Enhanced monitoring and evaluation

35. In 2012, UNITAR further enhanced its practices related to managing for results, with a new monitoring and evaluation policy framework. The framework is an important step in the Institute's efforts to strengthen accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in its programming and operations. It includes a number of internationally recognized guiding principles, norms and standards and specifies new evaluation criteria and requirements. Replacing the Institute's policy that had been in place since 2008, the framework shifts emphasis from the level of activity to that of results. With few exceptions, projects and undertakings associated with learning outcomes, for example, are required to systematically measure and evaluate knowledge, skills and/or awareness gained, and some undertakings are required to conduct evaluations in order to assess the application of knowledge and skills for improved organizational performance. While most evaluations continue to be undertaken on a self-assessment basis, given the nature and characteristics of the Institute's programming, the new policy includes modalities for independent evaluation to be managed by the Institute's Monitoring and Evaluation Section.

36. The Institute also regularly reports on a set of key performance indicators which provide an overview of how well the organization is performing. Among the current indicators are beneficiary outreach, including by geography and gender; the number and profile of events, including delivery methods and partnership modalities; client reaction to training services, including ratings of relevance, newness of information, intent to use and overall usefulness; and financial performance.

37. The Institute continues to work to systematically measure beneficiary reaction to its learning-related events and now reports and tracks feedback using the event management system. Based on a sample of 225 events (87 per cent of 2012 learning events), an average of 81 per cent of beneficiary respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the content of the training event concerned was new to them, that it was relevant to their jobs and that they would likely use the information acquired. Respondents also rated the overall usefulness of events, with 95 per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing that the event or events in which they participated in 2012 were useful overall.

38. Staff knowledge and awareness of evaluation tools, methods and approaches have strengthened, with both formal and informal in-house learning opportunities available. Nevertheless, applying skills and knowledge in the form of undertaking more robust self-assessments of learning and other intended results remains challenging given funding and time constraints, as well as other resource-related considerations.

D. Increasing autonomy

39. To increase the financial security of UNITAR, management has worked to improve its use of information technology systems, including through the development of a payment and registration system integrated into the event management system whereby beneficiaries can view announcements of upcoming events, as well as register, submit applications and complete payments for events online using credit cards or bank transfers. Developing the information technology infrastructure for the facility was a major undertaking and required close coordination across the Institute's divisions and sections. Its success is undeniably a major accomplishment and represents the first such mechanism, to the Institute's knowledge, in the United Nations system. Primarily as a result of developing the online payment facility, UNITAR has been able to diversify funding and mobilize self-generated income, which represented an important component of the Institute's 2010-2012 strategic direction. During this period, the Institute mobilized some $5.4 million in the form of self-generated income, based for the most part on fee-based training courses, the majority of which were delivered online.

40. The success in developing an efficient online payment facility and mobilizing self-generated income has brought challenges in terms of processing an increasing number of small-value financial transitions, which incur service charges that reduce the income reverting to the Institute. The United Nations Office at Geneva and UNITAR are working closely together to reduce the level of service charges incurred and to delegate increasing financial authority to UNITAR.

41. The Fellowship Fund, which was established as an instrument to allow UNITAR to cover its costs while reducing or waiving the course fees of eligible participants from least developed and other developing countries, has not proven

successful. In 2011, contributions from Member States amounted to only $80,000, against a target of $1 million. The Institute's Board of Trustees expressed concern over those developments at its fifty-first session and is working with management to develop more robust fundraising strategies as a priority for 2013, including, for example, ways in which Member States, international and regional organizations and other partners may contribute to the funding of specific fee-based courses with a view to increasing the number of fellowship awards in the future.

III. Towards the provision of more efficient training and research in the United Nations system

42. In its resolution 2011/11, the Economic and Social Council, acknowledging efficiency gains realized by the Institute through increased e-learning course offerings and the emphasis placed on multiplier effects, called upon the Institute to pursue its efforts to enhance the capabilities of learning centres in developing countries with innovative methodologies and to contribute to better coordination of the United Nations research and training institutes.

A. Efficiency gains through increased e-learning and training of trainers

43. With more than half of the beneficiaries of the Institute's training events now learning online, UNITAR has demonstrated a commitment to realizing important gains in resource efficiency, with increased flexibility and widened outreach, a reduced carbon footprint and the possibility of reusing course design and content for multiple audiences. Efficiency gains are also being achieved using the multiplier effects of capacity development, such as through the training of trainers.

1. Public finance and trade

44. Of the Institute's 4,897 e-course participants in 2012, 50 per cent benefited from courses related to public finance, trade and intellectual property, which were largely delivered in partnership with international and regional organizations, as well as academic institutions. Targeting mostly delegates and Government officials from least developed countries and other developing countries, the Institute's online programming in public finance employs technology-enhanced methodologies and communities of practice. As a result, UNITAR has reduced participation costs while increasing flexibility in scheduling, networking and accessing international experts and other global practitioners, thus providing a valuable alternative to face-to-face training.

2. Environment

45. In the broad area of its environment-related training and capacity-building, UNITAR took advantage of the multiplier effect with regard to the number of persons trained on the United Nations system for the classification and labelling of chemicals in South-East Asia. Following an initial training of trainers provided by UNITAR in 2011, an additional 2,800 persons were trained in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand in 2012, thus widening the outreach from the impact of the initial training. The Institute also partnered with UNDP, UNEP, the

United Nations System Staff College and other entities in organizing a series of United Nations Development Group regional workshops on environmental sustainability, climate change and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Taking place in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, the workshops contained a built-in multiplier effect, with participants sharing knowledge and skills with their relevant United Nations country teams.

46. In 2013, the Institute is developing with UNEP a training-of-trainers course with a view to strengthening the capacities of Member States to produce national mercury inventories in connection with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which will be opened for signature later this year.

3. Diplomacy

47. In partnership with the diplomatic academies of various ministries of foreign affairs, UNITAR has delivered activities related to the training of trainers, the objective of which has been to strengthen the capacities of senior civil servants to deliver training and knowledge-sharing at the national level. Activities build trainees' appreciation of learning styles and communication techniques, as well as their substantive knowledge in various subject areas, such as diplomacy, negotiation and climate change. Activities have been delivered in partnership with the Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa. Workshops providing for the training of trainers have also been delivered in partnership with UNDP to strengthen and build the pool of United Nations resource persons who are able to effectively and efficiently deliver training upon demand.

4. Peacekeeping

48. In the field of peacekeeping training, the Institute's long-term strategy involves strengthening endogenous training capacities through peacekeeping training institutions at the regional, subregional and national levels, with a view to increasing beneficiary outreach and enhancing ownership of training design, delivery and follow-up. The approach combines a number of pilot training courses, delivered back-to-back with training of trainers, and provides an opportunity for newly trained local trainers to apply training skills and techniques under close supervision and with the support of international experts. Since 2011, UNITAR has focused on peacekeeping learning centres in Liberia (Angie Brooks International Centre), Nigeria (Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Centre), Rwanda (Rwanda Peace Academy) and Zimbabwe (South African Development Community Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre). As a result of this engagement, the Institute more than doubled the number of participants in a span of less than 18 months during the 2011-2012 period. In 2013, the Institute will publish a training-of-trainers manual with the aim of providing a benchmark for capacity development in this field.

5. Post-conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan

49. The Institute has contributed to the post-conflict reconstruction of Afghanistan by developing the leadership, managerial and professional skills of the Afghan civil service and other stakeholders and by creating the conditions to sustain a growing community of mentors, coaches and fellows to address organizational needs. Since the programme was launched in 2003, UNITAR has completed nine fellowship cycles,

with over 400 Afghan civil servants, academics and practitioners engaged in meeting personal learning and development goals and 75 fellows and 20 coaches going on to become coaches and Afghan resource persons, respectively. As a result of this initiative, close to 100 national-level projects have been undertaken, three quarters of which are being implemented in the respective organizations of the fellows.

B. "Delivering as one": achievements through inter-agency collaboration

1. Climate change

50. Since its launch in 2009, the One United Nations training service platform for climate change (CC:Learn) has grown steadily in scope and range of activities, most recently with the support of the Government of Switzerland. The CC:Learn initiative contributes to the implementation of article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, on education, training and public awareness. The initiative currently has 33 partners drawn from multilateral organizations, operating both at the global level to foster information- and knowledge-sharing on climate change learning and at the national level through the development of climate change learning strategies. At the global level, the CC:Learn Initiative contributes to key events such as sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, operates a knowledge-sharing platform (www.unccclearn.org) with a searchable library of learning resources on climate change and is developing introductory and advanced learning resources, which will be made accessible through a web-based platform. Work at the national level engages Governments through United Nations country teams, thereby ensuring a "One United Nations" approach to learning. Building on existing climate change policies and institutions, national authorities and individuals acquire the skills they need to face a future of increasing climate uncertainty, while also taking advantage of emerging opportunities in low emissions and the green economy. The CC:Learn initiative is active in Benin, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malawi and Uganda, but there is demand from more than 20 additional countries. The initiative is part of the Inter-Agency Committee for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and the United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change. A steering group comprised of partner organizations provides guidance for CC:Learn activities. The Institute serves the initiative's secretariat.

2. Chemicals and waste management

51. In the field of chemicals and waste management, UNITAR participates in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, which was established in 1995 to strengthen cooperation and increase coordination in the field of chemical safety. The Programme brings together nine intergovernmental organizations which are actively involved in chemical safety (FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNITAR, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Health Organization, World Bank and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and which implement a large number of activities at the country level to improve chemicals management. In virtually all its of activities related to chemicals and waste management, the Institute actively collaborates with at least one other organization participating in the Programme, for example with ILO on the issue of global chemical labelling, UNEP for projects related to mercury and UNDP and

UNIDO for projects related to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

3. Migration

52. As in other thematic areas, UNITAR has focused on where it may add value by folding more effective learning into its overall strategy for capacity development. In the field of human mobility (migration), this approach is reflected in a number of ways. First, as with the seminar series on migration and development, UNITAR has continued to champion support to the delegates of developing countries, in particular with regard to their access to information and knowledge in this field. Currently, UNITAR is working to ensure that, in the context of the intergovernmental Global Forum on Migration and Development, better support is provided to the network of Forum focal points from developing regions with respect to the actualization of Forum recommendations. It is also working on the establishment of a network of learning on migration and development in the post-2015 context for national and regional training centres in developing regions, with a view to institutionalizing learning programmes and buttressing the Forum's focal point system.

53. Second, in maintaining its focus on a more integrated approach, UNITAR now co-leads the Global Migration Group Task Force on Capacity Development, which was established in 2013. Building on the assessment work first described in its previous report, the task force will: (a) centralize all activities related to capacity development, collecting and disseminating information on current Global Migration Group activities related to capacity development within the Group and to the wider public; (b) promote good practices in the area of effective learning and knowledge management, including needs assessments and evaluations, and their application to capacity development activities undertaken within the context of the Group's multi-annual workplan and, where relevant, relating to the actualization of recommendations of the Global Forum on Migration and Development; (c) deliver joint Global Migration Group capacity development products, in conjunction with the work of the broader Group and building on priorities identified within the Global Forum on Migration and Development process; and (d) build and support a network of institutional partners, including national and regional training centres in the field of migration and development in the post-2015 context.

54. Third, capitalizing on its experience in the field of local development, UNITAR has initiated migration-related training through its established network of international training centres for local actors. In 2012, it also launched the Learning Platform on Human Mobility, the first global platform dedicated to local and regional government in this field. Through a prestigious, hybrid curriculum of face-to-face and online learning developed with pre-eminent experts in the field, in 2013 the Learning Platform is addressing the topics of public perceptions of migrants and the role of the media, exploitation of migrant labour and entrepreneurship within migrant communities. Through 2015, the Learning Platform will deliver capacity development to hundreds of local and regional government officials, develop an online community of practice and support, build a body of knowledge accessible to a larger public in both in-class and online forms and share valued insights with different levels of governance, including but not limited to intergovernmental forums such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Further, it will draw on relevant regional and international networks, including Cities of Migration, Eurocities, the Joint Migration and Development Initiative of the European

Commission and the United Nations, and the International Metropolis Project. The Learning Platform is based in Antwerp, Belgium.

4. Satellite imagery and analysis

55. The Institute has continued to expand its Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), in terms of both its functions and its output, thereby confirming its technology-intensive approach to applied research to develop practical solutions adapted to the needs of the United Nations system and the international community in general. The output of UNOSAT is divided into services and capacity development. Under services, a full range of mapping and satellite analysis is offered to all United Nations entities and Member States in the areas of emergency response and humanitarian assistance, human security and monitoring and territorial planning and environmental change detection. In the area of capacity development, UNITAR delivers a range of specialized training programmes in Geneva and in-country in the areas of strategic territorial planning and disaster management, rapid mapping and advanced satellite analysis. New subregional multi-year programmes have been launched by UNITAR in East Africa in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and in South-East Asia in partnership with ESCAP and with the collaboration of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre.

56. The Institute supported the response to a total of 63 humanitarian crises through the Humanitarian Rapid Mapping service, which has been active since 2003 with support from a variety of donor countries, including Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. In 2012, the demand for UNOSAT geospatial assistance by United Nations agencies in the field increased by 25 per cent, which indicates the significance of satellite analysis in the crisis response cycle and the central role of UNOSAT as the United Nations centre of excellence for satellite analysis, in collaboration with other providers of important information such as the Department of Field Support and the United Nations Operation and Control Centre. The majority of the requests in the area of humanitarian assistance have come from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR and the United Nations Children's Fund. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is regularly assisted by UNOSAT in the area of independent commissions of inquiry. The Institute's UNOSAT experts assisted four OHCHR independent commissions of inquiry for Libya and Syria.

5. United Nations Summer Academy

57. Together with the United Nations System Staff College and the International Training Centre of ILO, the Institute co-organized the inaugural edition of the United Nations Summer Academy in August 2012. The Academy was a unique executive educational programme in which some 40 United Nations staff and other development practitioners and academics engaged in learning, knowledge-sharing and debate on a number of important themes included in the Five-Year Action Agenda of the Secretary-General and the outcome of the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The Academy's programme included intense and thoughtful discussion and interaction on themes such as sustainable development, climate change, global governance, poverty, social and gender issues, migration, partnerships for development and the role of the private sector, inequality within and across nations, innovation and new technologies for development.

IV. Financial situation of the Institute

58. For the year ended 31 December 2012, total income was $21.3 million, compared with $20.9 million in 2010. While a 2 per cent growth rate is encouraging in a very difficult economic environment, this conceals some very distinct trends. Earmarked project funds have grown significantly in some programme areas, but other programmes have experienced considerable difficulty in attracting funding. In addition, the non-earmarked General Fund has not succeeded in attracting funding and has only averaged $350,000 in contributions annually since 2010. This funding pattern presents major financial and managerial challenges to the Institute, and means that there is no scope for exploring ad hoc opportunities for capacity-building to support Member States.

59. At its fifty-third session, the Institute's Board of Trustees approved the proposed revision of the budget for the 2012-2013 biennium of $42.6 million, compared with the original budget of $44.8 million, for a slight reduction of $2.2 million, or 4.9 per cent, to reflect actual income. The slowdown in the impressive growth of the Institute's income from the 2008-2010 period is attributed to the continued downturn in economic activity resulting from the global financial crisis.

60. For the third consecutive biennium (2010-2011), the Institute received an unqualified audit opinion of its financial statements from the United Nations Board of Auditors. All previous recommendations have been implemented.

V. Looking forward: opportunities for enhanced service delivery to Member States

61. During 2012 initial discussions were held between the Secretary-General and the Institute's Board of Trustees to explore the implications of the proposed consolidation of several small United Nations entities dedicated to research, training and knowledge services, including UNITAR, transforming them into a key knowledge arm of the United Nations over time. By bringing the work of these entities into alignment under strengthened and more strategically linked leadership and sharing support services, the United Nations should be able to do even better in supporting Member States in generating new ideas, sharing knowledge and building capacities to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

62. During these discussions, all parties made it clear that the important mandates of UNITAR (and the other entities) should be not only be preserved but also enhanced. The Institute's Board of Trustees expressed interest in the idea as presented at the Board's fifty-second session and said that it looked forward to learning more about the proposal as soon as possible. Consultations with the governing bodies of the entities are continuing, and a proposal will be presented to Member States for discussion.

VI. Recommendation

63. It is recommended that Member States provide full support to UNITAR, including the necessary non-earmarked funding to the General Fund that will allow UNITAR to meet its core requirements.